

# BROWN BAT HOUSE NESTING PROJECT

## PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017

- This is a final report for year one of this project and we will address
  - 1 Project Goals and Objectives
  - 2 Outline of work completed
  - 3 Results
  - 4 Assessment of achievements
  - 5 Recommendations for follow-up

# BROWN BAT HOUSE NESTING PROJECT

## PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017

### Project Goals and Objectives

- Build a bat house that requires little maintenance and is durable.
- Build a couple of different designs to see what works best.
- Identify areas where these houses are likely to be inhabited.
- Seek out volunteers with the resources to help members install and monitor nests from a distance via game cameras.

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### Project Goals and Objectives

- Provide our clubhouse to store material and to facilitate the building of these bat houses.
- Educate the public the important role these bats have since the insects they eat are crop pests.
- Inform the public the importance of not disturbing bats in any way, shape or forum. "Even a single, seemingly quiet visit can kill bats that would otherwise survive the winter. If you see hibernating bats, assume you are doing harm and leave immediately."
- Record results for the Habitat Fund, DFO, DOE and the public.

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## Outline of Work Completed

Source building material

Research Bat House Design

Build some multiple designs

Search out sites

Engage Public on sightings

Install/Erect Bat Houses

Inform anyone taking part in project of Public Health Warnings with respect to avoiding contact with bats because of Rabbits Concern.

Obtain signed consent from those involved with project of these health concerns.

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## Results to Date

- Ten Bat Houses erected to date
- Data collected on visual sightings and recorded
- Cameras being monitored
- Public participation

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## PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION 2017

Assessment of Achievements, Lessons Learned, Measured Against Project Goals and Objectives.

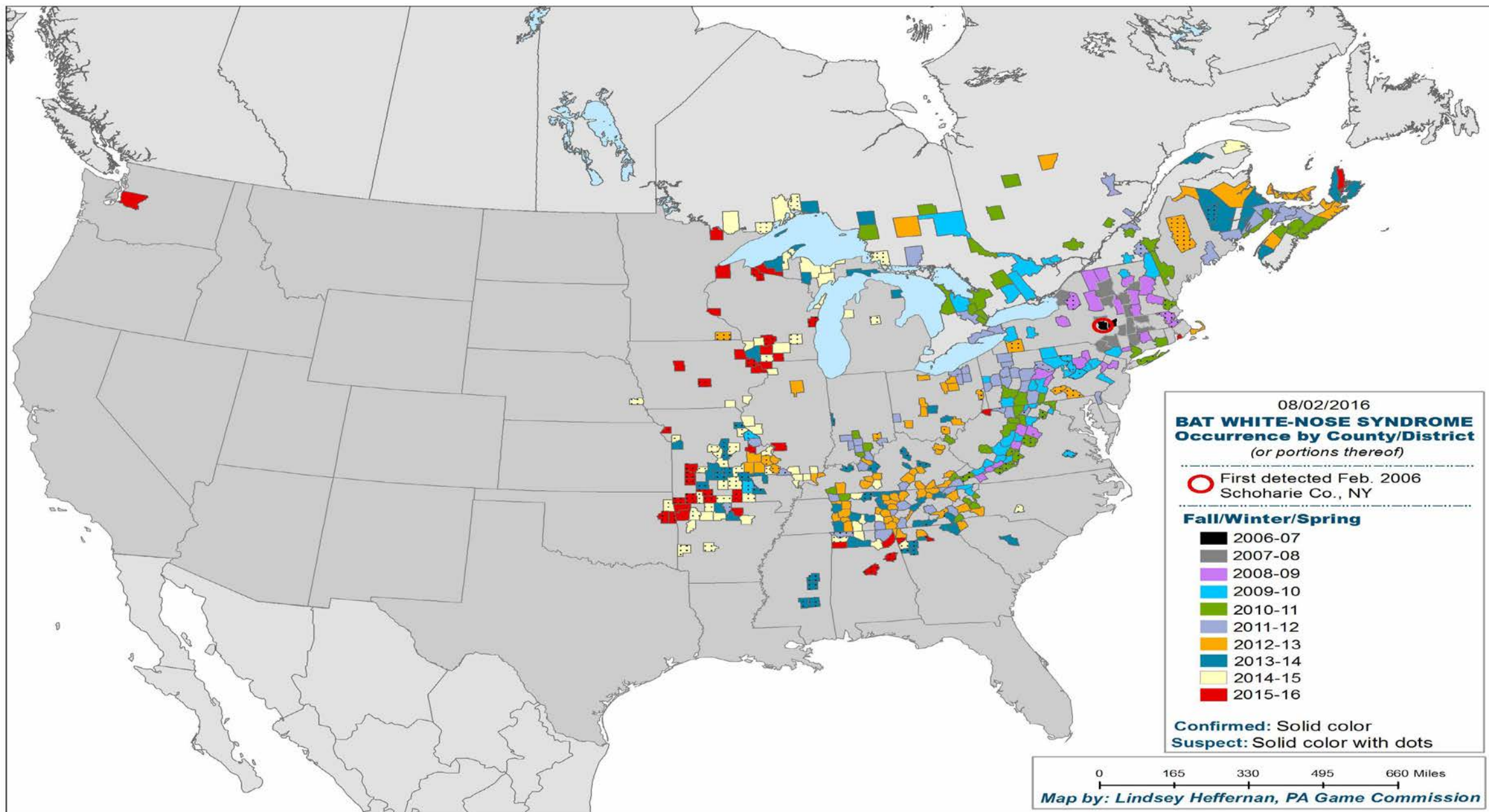
Our goal of providing nesting grounds for the Brown Bat is being hampered by the fact that we are not really being very successful in finding any large number of sightings. While we are getting calls regarding an odd sighting here and there, we are very disappointed that there has been no high concentrations to date. Mind you we were late getting funding to build these nesting houses through no fault of our own and next year may be more successful. We had meetings with the new owners of the Donkin Mine where a large colony of bats was supposedly discovered when this mine was being developed. The new owners have granted us access to the site and has offered to do whatever they can to help us discover if this colony still exists.

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### Recommendations for Follow-up Steps

Our recommendation if we had any control over it, would be to have the funding available much sooner, than is the present norm. It seems that bureaucracy plays a big role in this funding being distributed. Most projects being funded are time sensitive and for elected officials to hold this money up, just so they can make a timely announcement, that they are providing this funding to feather their own hats is offensive. Most all of this funding comes from Hunters and Trappers with the Government being the administrators of the fund. We waited over 8 weeks from the time we were notified that we were approved for funding until we actually saw funding. Maybe if we had these nesting houses up earlier we would have seen better results.





PROJECT MADE POSSIBLE BY CONTRIBUTIONS  
FROM HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS OF NOVA SCOTIA

**PMWA**



**NS HCF**

NOVA SCOTIA  
HABITAT  
CONSERVATION  
FUND  
Contributions from Hunters and Trappers

## PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION



# NOVA SCOTIA HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Contributions from Hunters and Trappers

P.O. BOX 9  
568 SANDLAKE ROAD,  
TOWER ROAD, NS  
B1b1J6

### BROWN BAT HOUSE PROJECT

The Port Morien Wildlife Association has with financial support from the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund engaged in two projects in the Industrial Cape Breton area. The funds for these grants come from contributions by **Hunters and Trappers** in Nova Scotia.

Brown Bats in North America are dying by the Millions as a result of what's called the White Nose Syndrome, a fungus that causes the Bats to wake early from hibernation and end up starving to death as a result of food shortage. We have built Bat Houses that have been erected and we have engaged the public in an attempt to locate and study bats in this area to see if this disease is prevalent in this area. This disease has been recorded in 5 Provinces and 29 States since first being discovered in 2009 with over 5 million bats dying as a result of this.

Anyone with knowledge of bat sightings are asked to contact any member of our organization. If you happen to find a dead bat or bats, you should notify the NS Department of Natural Resources. Bats are known to be associated with the Rabbits disease and there is a Public Health Notice on the web addressing procedures to follow if you find a dead bat. Bats are known to eat four to five times their body weight in insects each night. They play a very important role in our ecosystem.

### LOON PLATFORM NESTING PROJECT

The other project we took on this year was a Floating Loon Nesting Project. Loon reproduction it seems is down and some contributing factors have been identified as rising/fluctuating water level, land development encroachment, lead and mercury poisoning and the ever present predator attacks. We were late getting started this year and the loons were after already nesting so we concentrated on finding locations and building platforms for installation next year. We had lots of engagement from the public with regards to Loon sightings but very few reported seeing new chicks. We are hoping these platforms will get them away from shore predators and the fluctuating water woes they face. We have a very good relationship with the CBRM Water Utility who has given us permission to study this situation in watershed areas. We have many other projects we are involved with throughout CBRM.

Anyone with an interest in the great outdoors are welcome to join our organization. Membership dues are \$10.00 per year and we meet the second Wednesday of each month.

EXECUTIVE PMWA

# PMWA HANDOUT INFORMATION

This is a copy of the Handout Information sheet we distribute at public functions we attend explaining the projects that we are doing with funds that have been provided by the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund.

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THIS CONCLUDES THE FINAL REPORT FOR  
THE PORT MORIEN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATIONS  
BROWN BAT HOUSE PROJECT

NS HCF # 190371248

