



# IWRC

## International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council

August 2014

### Dear Reader

"Once there were billions". This is a tag line I've been hearing a lot this year, with Martha's death on many minds. The passenger pigeon went from billions to none in only a few hundred years. This striking story influenced the theme of this year's IWRC Symposium: Working Together for Species Survival.

What if the wildlife rehabilitation community was active in the 1900's -- would the story have been different? That instance is far in the past, but we've got events happening today where wildlife rehab is making a difference. Read below for the success story of sea otters and the decline of the once widely common little brown bat. Wildlife rehabilitators are working with scientists and policy makers to protect, nurture, and revitalize this critical species.

Kai

### Once Common Bats

Maine has proposed its first additions to the state's endangered species list since 2007: the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). [Cave counts](#) reveal an estimated [90% population decrease](#) since 2006.

Public comments on the proposal are accepted through the end of today. Send comments to [becky.orff@maine.gov](mailto:becky.orff@maine.gov)

The Northern long-eared bat is also being considered for Federal listing by the [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (USFWS). That decision will be made by April 2, 2015. The service is studying the little brown bat to assess its possible inclusion for Endangered Species Act (federal US) listing.

**BOGO:** Enjoy our special rate and receive 50% off your second ticket! Offer ends August 31, 2014.



Symposium [registration](#) is open and we are starting off with a buy one get one half off special. So if you are registering with a friend, be sure to chose that option and save!



Order your 2014 Symposium T-shirt and receive it at the

## The Sea Otter Returneth

In an ongoing [conservation success story](#) sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*) are becoming more common in the north Pacific. There were an estimated 300,000 in the 1800s, which quickly dwindled due to the fur-trading industry. Now, thanks to some judicious releases and subsequent management there are [over 100,000 worldwide](#).

Yet the future remains uncertain. In July [poxvirus was found on sea otters](#) for the first time. Pox lesions on a species dependent on its thick coat for protection from the freezing north Pacific could be devastating. This discovery calls for more research and collaboration between wildlife centers and scientists.

New research finds that [polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons](#) (PAH), a product of forest fires end up in the ocean. A recent study suggests a correlation between high PAH levels and weakened immune systems in sea otters.

Scientists are also concerned about the effects of climate change on this kelp forest ecosystem sustaining predator. This was a subject of interest at last week's [Ecological Society of American meeting](#).

## Other Threatened & Endangered Species in the News:

[100 Gorillas in Nigeria: Fighting to save a species](#)

[Continuing the Path to Recovery: What happens now that the brown pelican is delisted?](#)

## Research Corner: Baylisascaris (raccoon roundworm) Study

You are invited by wildlife disease researchers at The University of Georgia to participate in a research study to assess the understanding of Baylisascaris procyonis (raccoon roundworm) among persons who have contact with wildlife. In addition, use of preventive measures (e.g. glove use, hand washing, raccoon treatment) will be assessed. Any person over the age of 18 that has contact with wildlife (e.g., wildlife rehabilitator or animal care provider) is eligible to participate. Importantly - anybody that

symposium or have it shipped to you in December. Orders can be made on the symposium [registration page](#) (picked up) and in our [online store](#) (shipped).

Details at <http://theiwrc.org/symposium>

## Notes

Don't forget about the [Member Bring a Member](#) promotion. If you recommend that someone becomes a member of the IWRC tell them to enter your member number when registering and you'll get credit and a chance at some fun prizes and discounts!

Did you know that we have [airline discounts](#) for travel to the Cincinnati Symposium? Just go to one of these sites and be sure to enter the code

- [Delta](#) NMJ2Y
- [American](#) 87N4BK
- [United](#) ZS6W384554

\*Valid for symposium travel to Cincinnati ONLY

JWR 34(2) is published! Available to all members at <http://theiwrc.org/journal-of-wildlife-rehabilitation/jwr-current-issue>

USFWS is seeking public input on [eagle management objectives](#). Participate now.

## Links

[IWRC Courses](#)

works with wildlife is eligible to participate, regardless of the species of animals you rehabilitate (i.e., do not have to work with raccoons). If you do work with raccoons, we will access your level of contact so even if you only feed or clean cages of raccoons, you would be considered a 'raccoon rehabilitate'. The survey is short (especially for those that do not rehabilitate raccoons) and is estimated to only take about 10-15 minutes of your time. All responses will be anonymous. It is a great thing to do during the late night feedings (as a father to 4 month old twins, I am right there with you right now!).

We are doing a concurrent study on the prevalence of antibodies to *B. procyonis* in wildlife rehabilitators, some of you may have given blood at the NWRA conference last year. This survey is distinct from the one you filled out, thus you are eligible and encouraged to participate in this survey. We are continuing the seroprevalence study so hopefully will see you at future NWRA or state association meetings.

The findings from this project will provide information on knowledge of *B. procyonis* among individuals who have contact with wildlife and we will present the findings at various conferences and publish the results in an open access journal that will be free to read. Once the survey is completed, you will receive links to various electronic resources with information on *B. procyonis*, including a map of the currently known distribution. Because there are many 'holes' in this map, we welcome additions to the map if you have confirmed infections in raccoons. If you have suspected cases you are also welcome to contact me and I will work with you to confirm *B. procyonis* infections.

Please click the following link to access the survey. [https://uGeorgia.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_cN5zJHhNNa9poDr](https://uGeorgia.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cN5zJHhNNa9poDr)

We greatly appreciate your participation in this study. If you have any questions about this research project, please feel free to contact the study supervisor, Dr. Michael Yabsley, at [myabsley@uga.edu](mailto:myabsley@uga.edu).

## September

- Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation, RI, USA

## October

- Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation, WA, USA
- Pain & Wound Management, WA, USA

## December

- Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation, OH, USA
- Pain & Wound Management, OH, USA
- Zoonoses, OH, USA

Look for additional courses listed next month. Meanwhile, if you are interested in hosting contact Julissa at [julissa@theiwrc.org](mailto:julissa@theiwrc.org)

[Upcoming Conferences](#)  
[Other Upcoming Opportunities](#)



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