

Subject: Bat detector results and new field tech

Russel Barsh <russel@kwiaht.org>
to Jim & Karen Vedder

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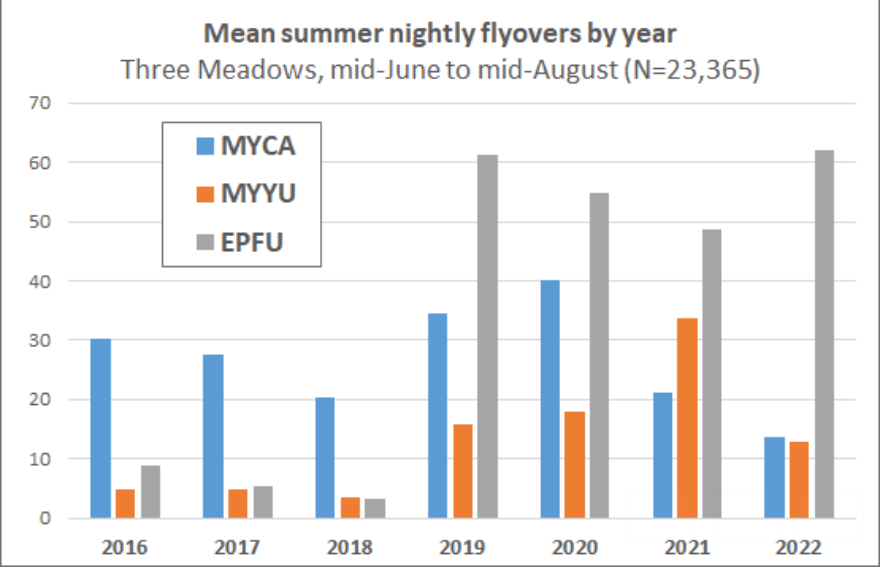
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Jim and Karen --

First of all, I want to thank you for the opportunity to keep our bat recorder running at Three Meadows all these is year eight! It has enabled us to compile an invaluable record of nightly and seasonal changes in bat activity, term trends in the species and numbers of bats flying over the Three Meadows wetlands. We hope to keep our there running for at least another five years. Other than updating its firmware and changing its batteries, we ha trouble maintaining it.

Beginning this month, we have a new field technician working for us on San Juan Island: Jess Thompson, whc her time between managing our field sites at Three Meadows, Mount Young and Lime Kiln State Park, and a " has had for some time at Browne's Garden Center. Jess studied acoustic biology and worked with Scott Veirs hydrophone at Lime Kiln for some years. She lives in the Harbor, and you can reach her directly if you need to blujay.thompson@gmail.com. She'll have a Kwiaht email, too, very shortly.

So what have we learned? Bat activity at Three Meadows actually increased in the last five years, and there w surprising shift in species, with Big Browns moving into the local bat community, and a modest increase in Yur this graph, EPFU are the Big Browns, MYYU the Yumas, and MYCA the most common island bat, Myotis calif did this change occur? We have no answer yet. It's possible the food supply changed; but it does seem clear t Brown colony moved in somewhere nearby and is thriving.



It would be great to get some collateral research going on the "bugs" that the wetlands produce; and to try to fi maternity colonies -- they could be in old buildings, occupied buildings (attics, roofs), or outbuildings, but these prefer human structures. Hmmm. Where might that be?

Let me know if there's interest among the homeowners in doing some other bat-sleuthing! Jess can always coi handheld bat detector that does the same recording and species-identification as our automated one -- perhap event to catch everyone up on island bat research.

Again, much, much appreciation --

Russel.

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