



## Wildlife Health Bulletin 2009-02

USGS National Wildlife  
Health Center  
6006 Schroeder Rd.  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-270-2400  
[www.nwhc.usgs.gov](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov)

To: Natural Resource/Conservation Managers  
From: Jonathan Sleeman, Director, USGS National Wildlife Health Center  
Title: Wildlife Disease Updates: White-Nose Syndrome, Avian Influenza Surveillance, Bat Rabies  
and other NWHC Updates  
Date: August 31, 2009

As the new Director at the National Wildlife Health Center I am pleased to be sending out the first Wildlife Health Bulletin under my tenure. I am committed to continuing to enhance communications between NWHC and our many partners and collaborators in the natural resources, conservation and wildlife health communities, as well as other professionals with an interest in wildlife health. With that in mind, I have asked my staff to increase our efforts to make information and updates about wildlife health issues and NWHC activities more readily available. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions concerning the type of information you would like to see shared as well as preferred formats for receiving updates.

This Bulletin contains updates on White-Nose Syndrome in Bats, the 2009/10 Surveillance Plan for the Early Detection of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus, Bat Rabies and Other Lyssavirus Infections, and the first NWHC Newsletter.

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) in Bats: WNS was first documented among dead and hibernating bats found in caves near Albany, New York, by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation beginning in February 2007. USGS has issued a new fact sheet that provides an update on WNS that includes our current understanding of the syndrome, new research projects as well as information on the expanding geographic range of this devastating disease. [http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/fact\\_sheets/pdfs/2009-3058\\_investigating\\_wns.pdf](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/fact_sheets/pdfs/2009-3058_investigating_wns.pdf)

Surveillance Plan for the Early Detection of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI): This USGS Publication describes the 2009/2010 wild bird surveillance program for the early detection of H5N1 HPAI in the United States. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/92/>.

Bat Rabies and Other Lyssavirus Infections: This new USGS Circular describes the worldwide occurrence of rabies and other lyssaviruses in bats, their origins, how they spread, and the degree of threat these viruses pose to people, pets, farm animals, and wildlife. This is one of a series of circulars that are being produced on wildlife zoonotic diseases. A previous circular on Tularemia (Circular 1297) was published in 2006. <http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/other/batrabies.jsp>

NWHC Newsletter: This is a new idea for providing up-to-date information on NWHC research and other wildlife health activities. We are posting it to obtain your comments and content suggestions for future newsletters. Please contact Jennifer Bradsby at 608-270-2443 or by email: [jbradsby@usgs.gov](mailto:jbradsby@usgs.gov). <http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/other/NWHCnewsJuly2009.pdf>

WILDLIFE HEALTH BULLETINS are distributed to natural resource/conservation agencies to provide and promote information exchange about significant wildlife health threats in their geographic region. If you would like to be added to or removed from the mailing list for these bulletins, please contact Gail Moede Rogall at 608-270-2438 or e-mail: [gmrogall@usgs.gov](mailto:gmrogall@usgs.gov).