

Seasonal Occupancy and Activity Patterns of Appalachian Spruce-Fir Forests by Tree Bats

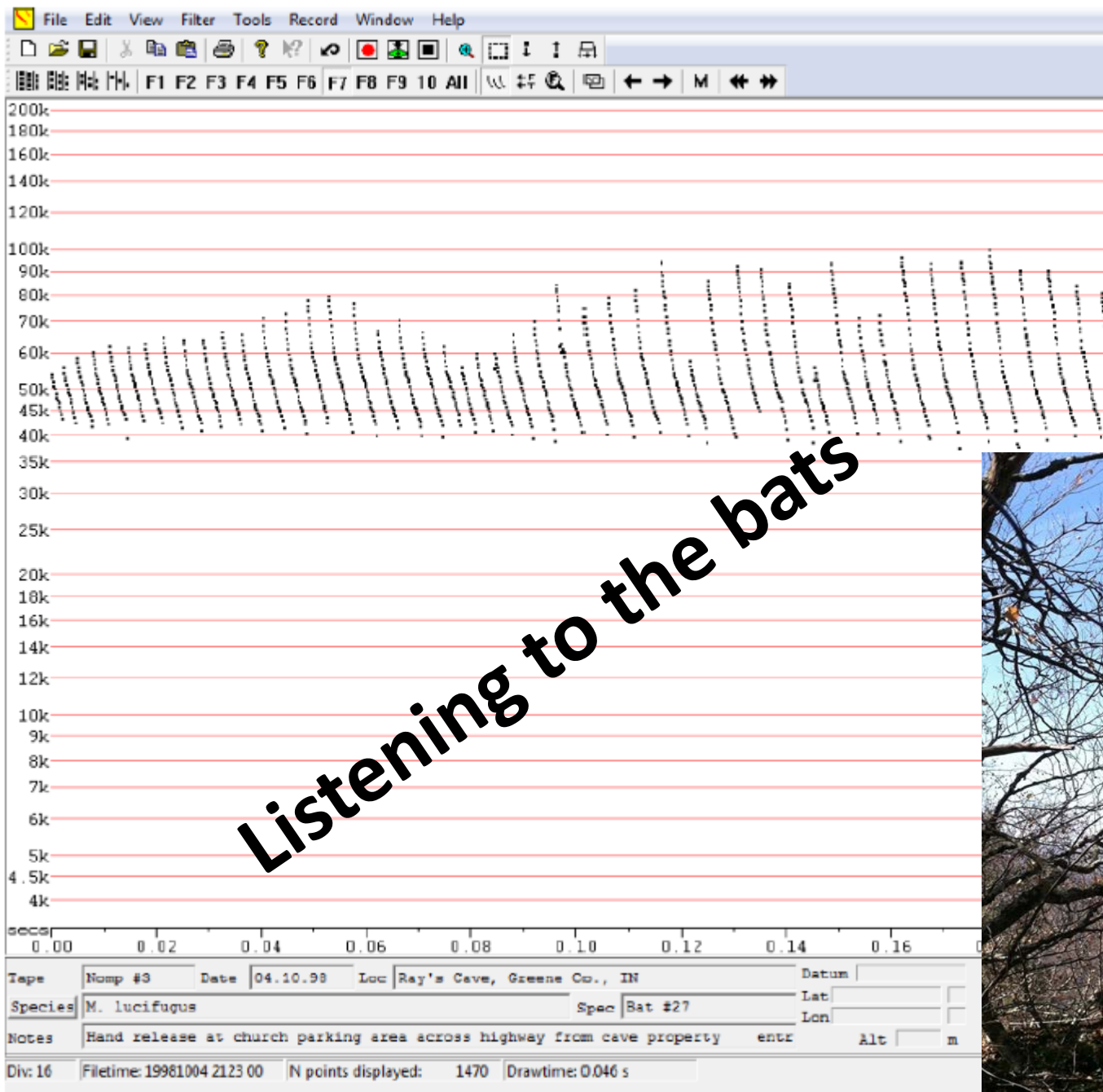
W. Mark Ford, U.S. Geological Survey, Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

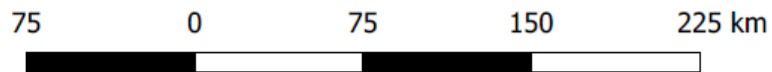
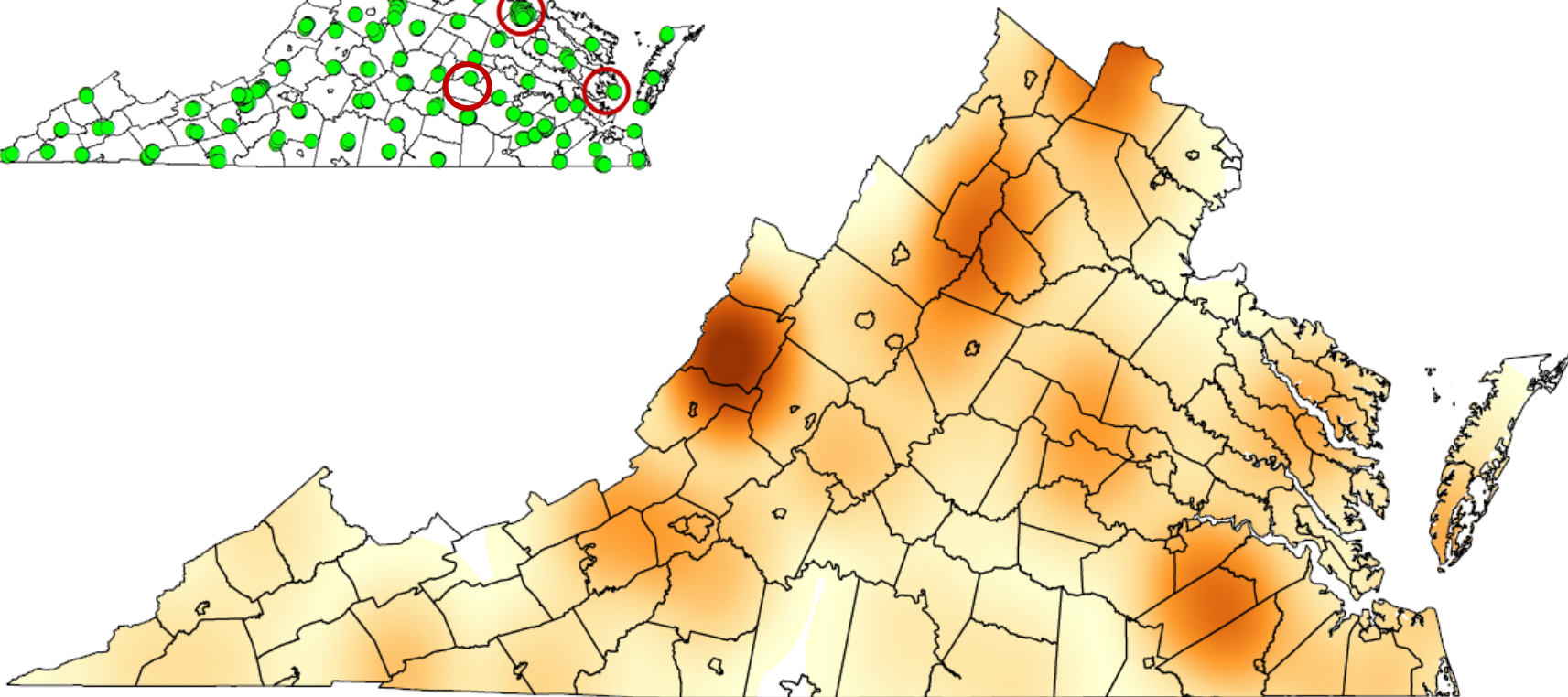
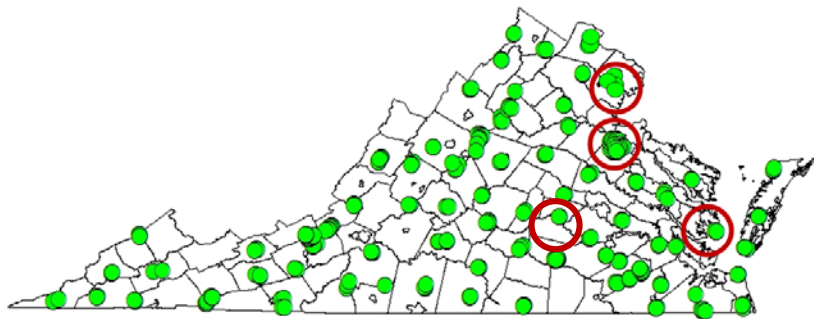
Corinne A. Diggins, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech

Sabrina M. Deeley, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech









VA counties

Presence point density

0.131906

2.947229

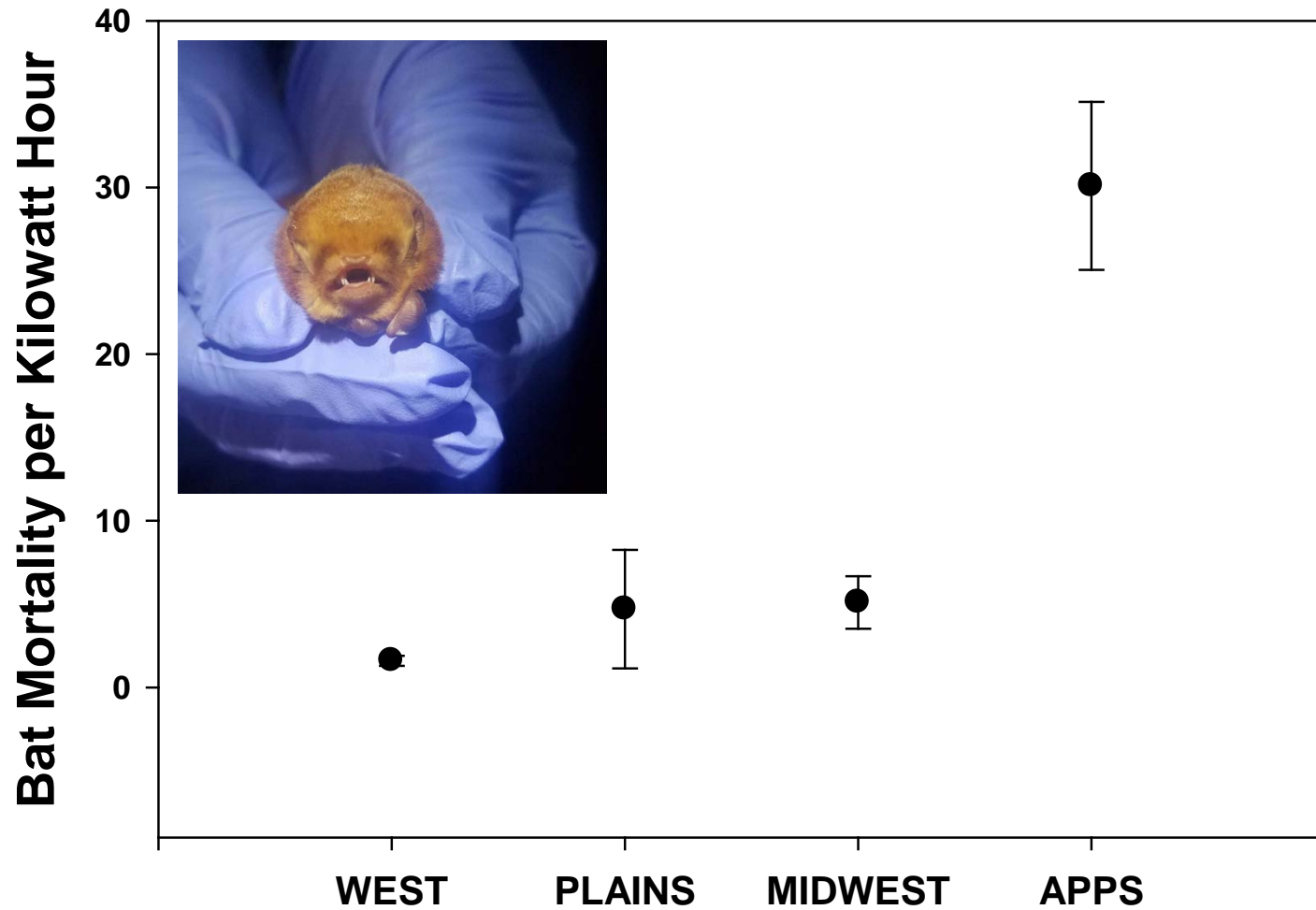
5.762553

8.577877

11.393200

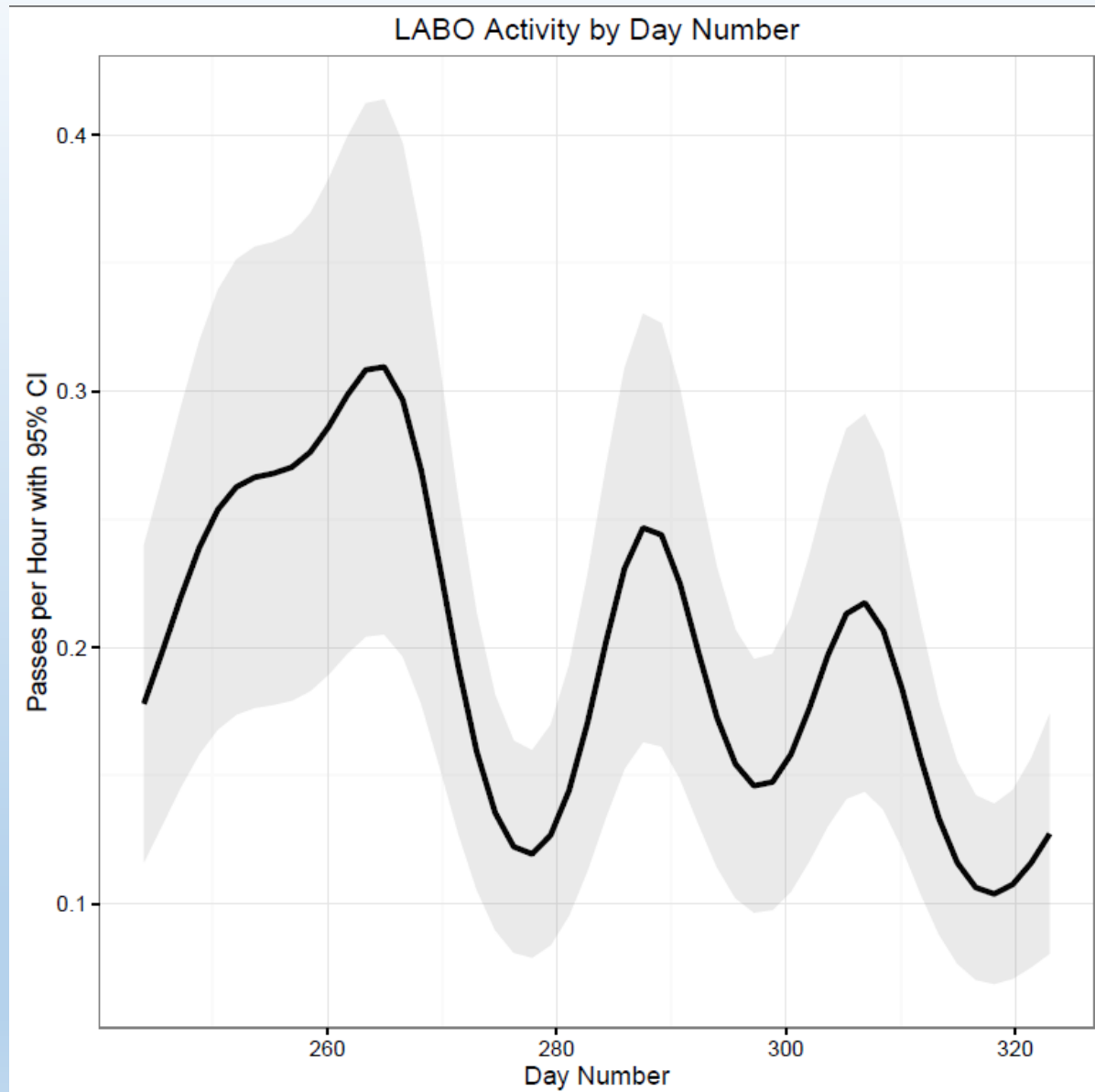
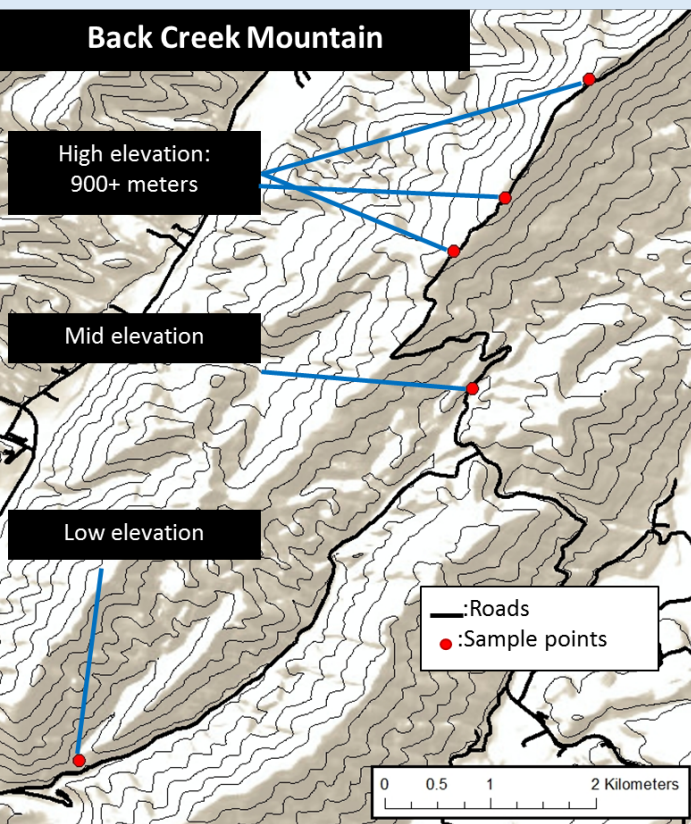


Differential Mortality by Region



Gruver and Bishop-Boros. 2015. EDP Renewables North America Report.

Eastern Red Bat



Franci, K. E., W. M. Ford, and S.B. Castleberry.
2004. Bat activity in central Appalachian wetlands.
Georgia Journal of Science 62:87-94.



*Pseudogymnoascus
destructans*



METHODS

- **10 areas, each with a cluster of 3 PetterssonD500x detectors**
- **Spring (early May), Summer (July-early August), Fall (late September-October) survey periods in 2015 in spruce, spruce-fir or fir**
- **1-11 detector “nights” per detector per season**
- **Bat identification in Kaleidoscope 4.2 on neutral (0) setting**
- **Single-season multiple survey occupancy and detection probability in Program PRESENCE**
- **Relative activity by season blocked with site cluster and elevation and canopy height as random variables modeled in SAS using PROC GLIMMIX**

Tennessee

North Carolina

Eastern Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*)



VT CNRE/Alex Morrison

Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*)



VT CNRE/Alex Morrison

Silver-haired Bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)



Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)



Federal Trust Species

Indiana bat

Northern long-eared bat

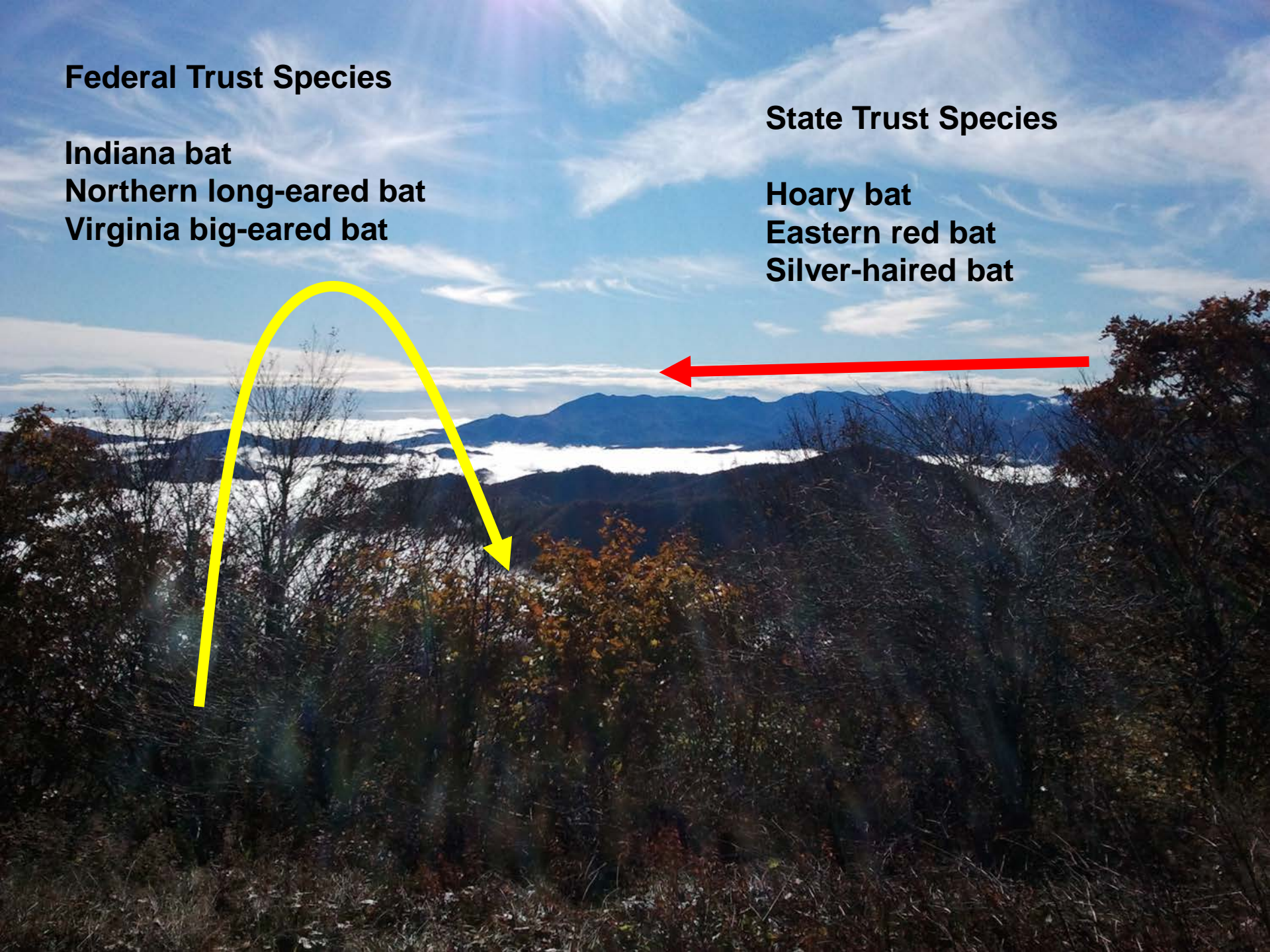
Virginia big-eared bat

State Trust Species

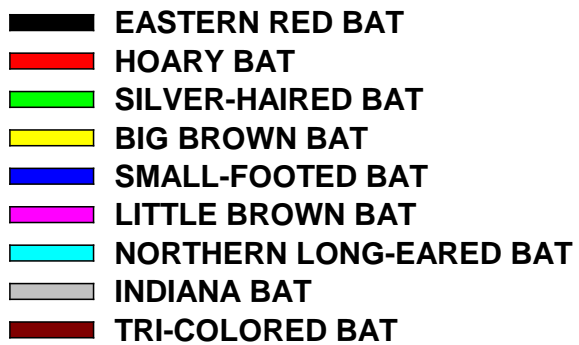
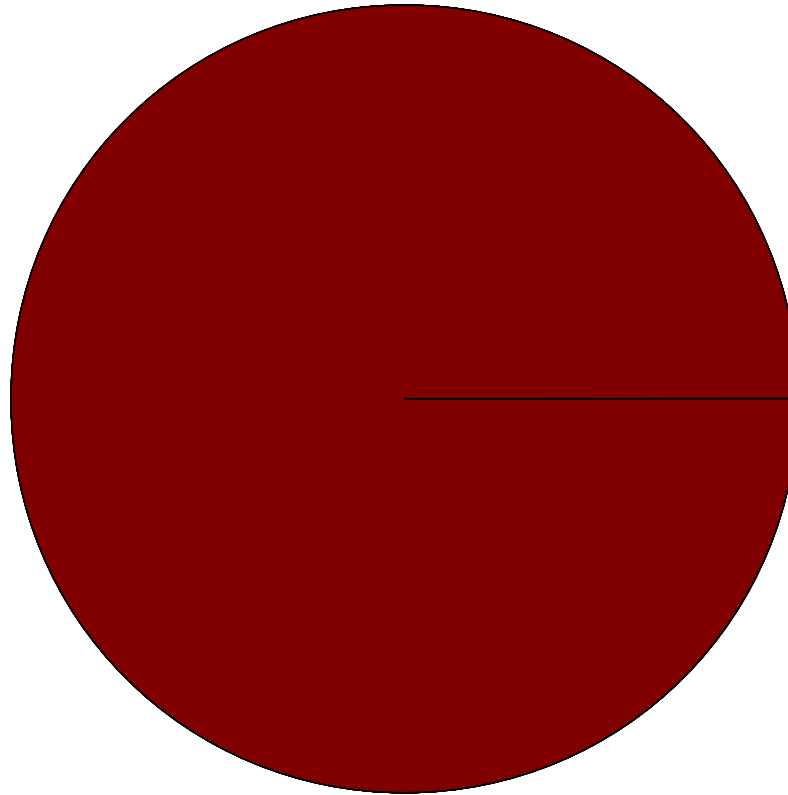
Hoary bat

Eastern red bat

Silver-haired bat

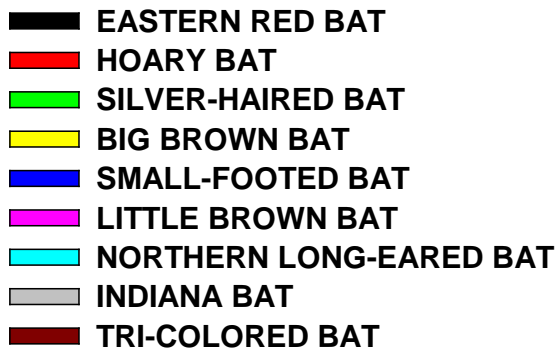
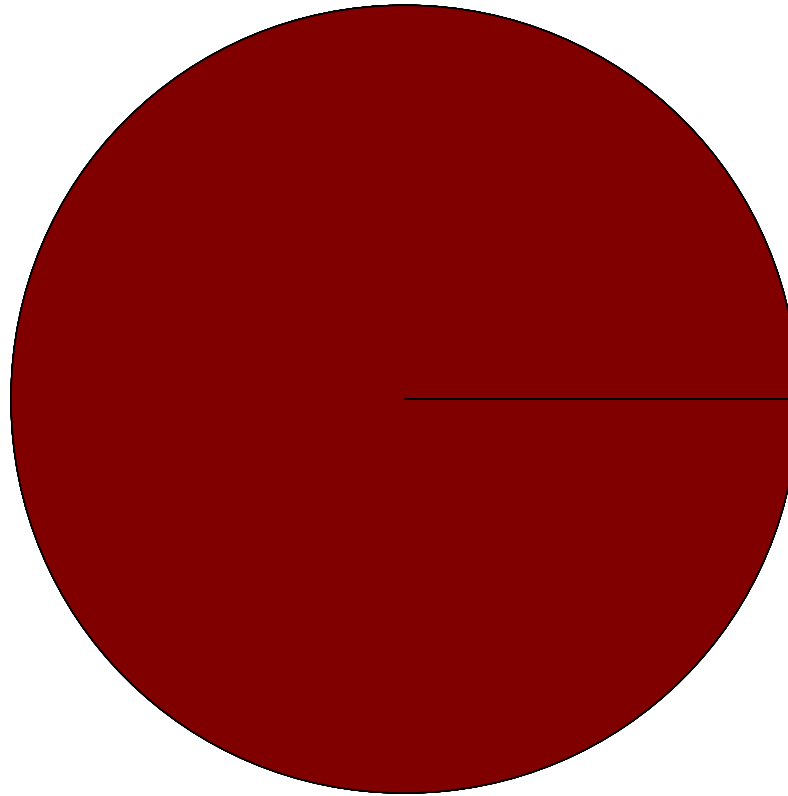


SPRING 2015 - 921 BAT PASSES
205 DETECTOR NIGHTS



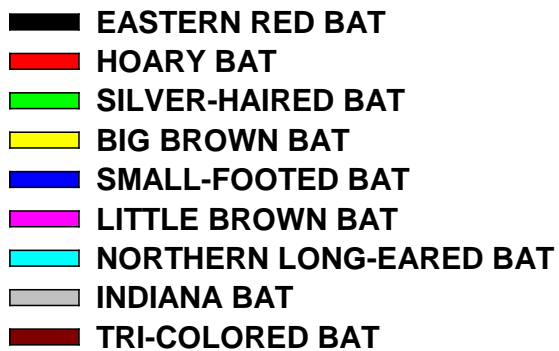
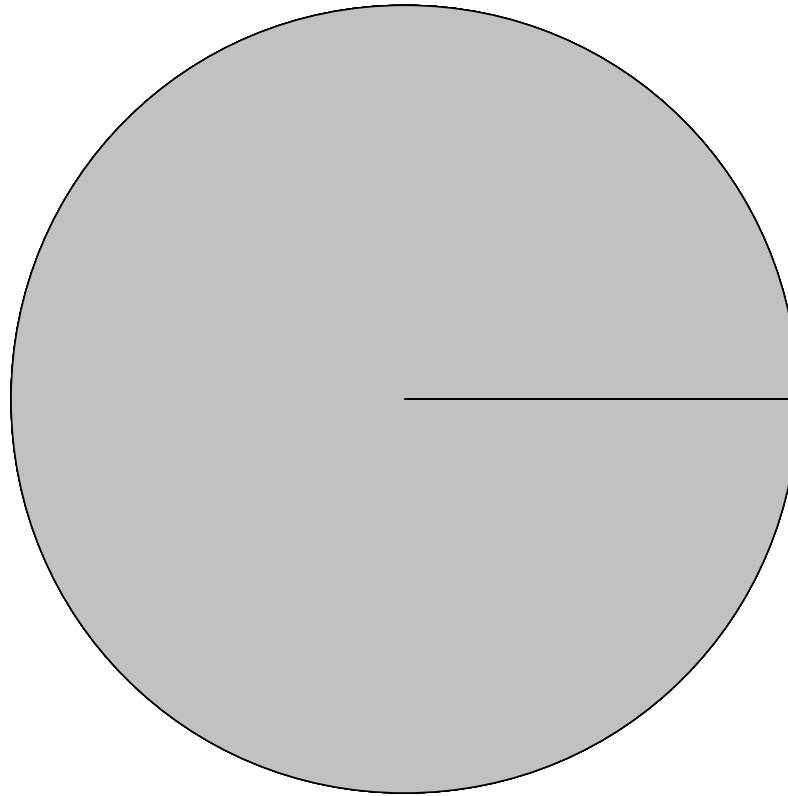
SUMMER 2015 - 1545 BAT PASSES

146 DETECTOR NIGHTS

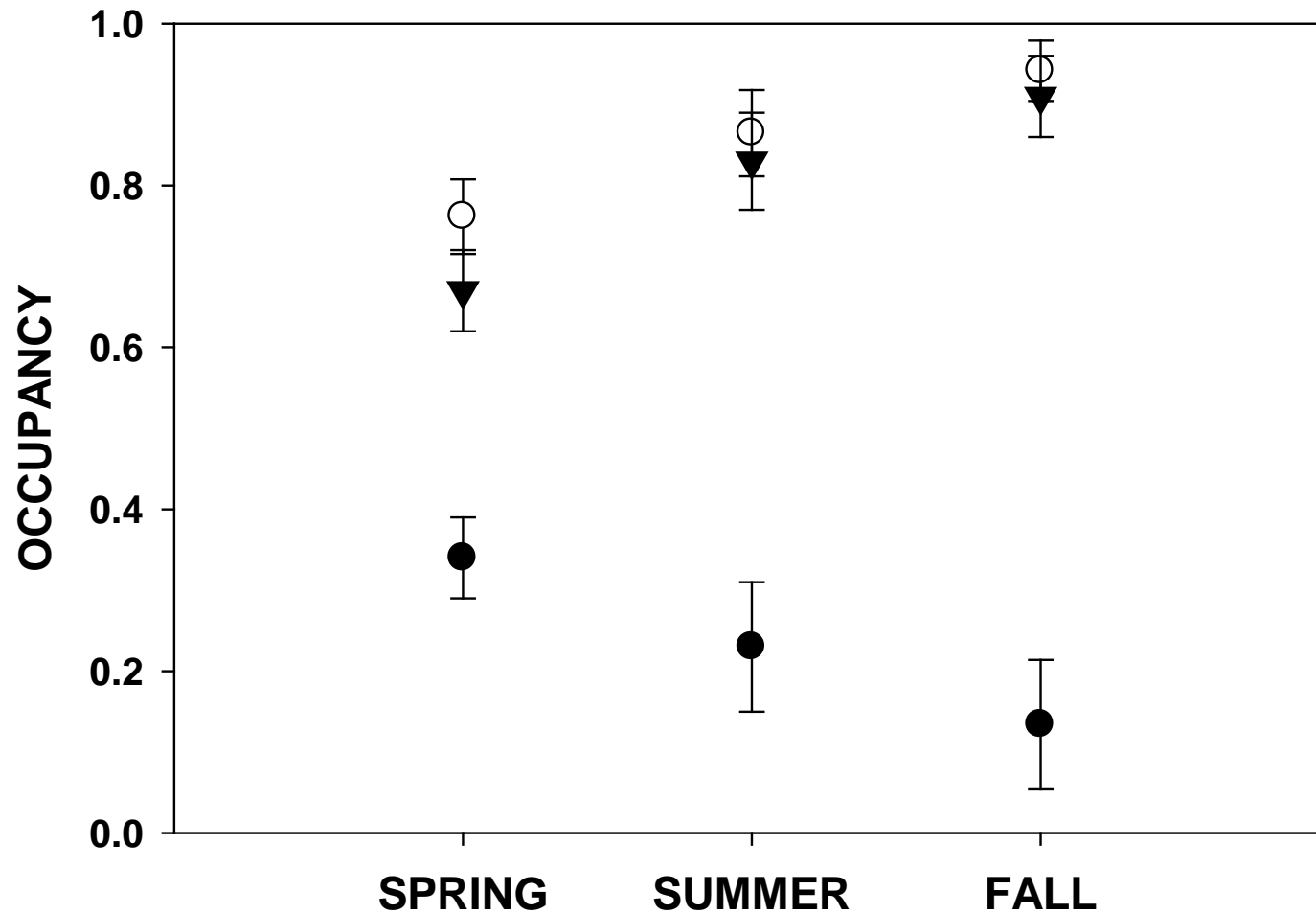


FALL 2015 - 539 BAT PASSES

158 DETECTOR NIGHTS



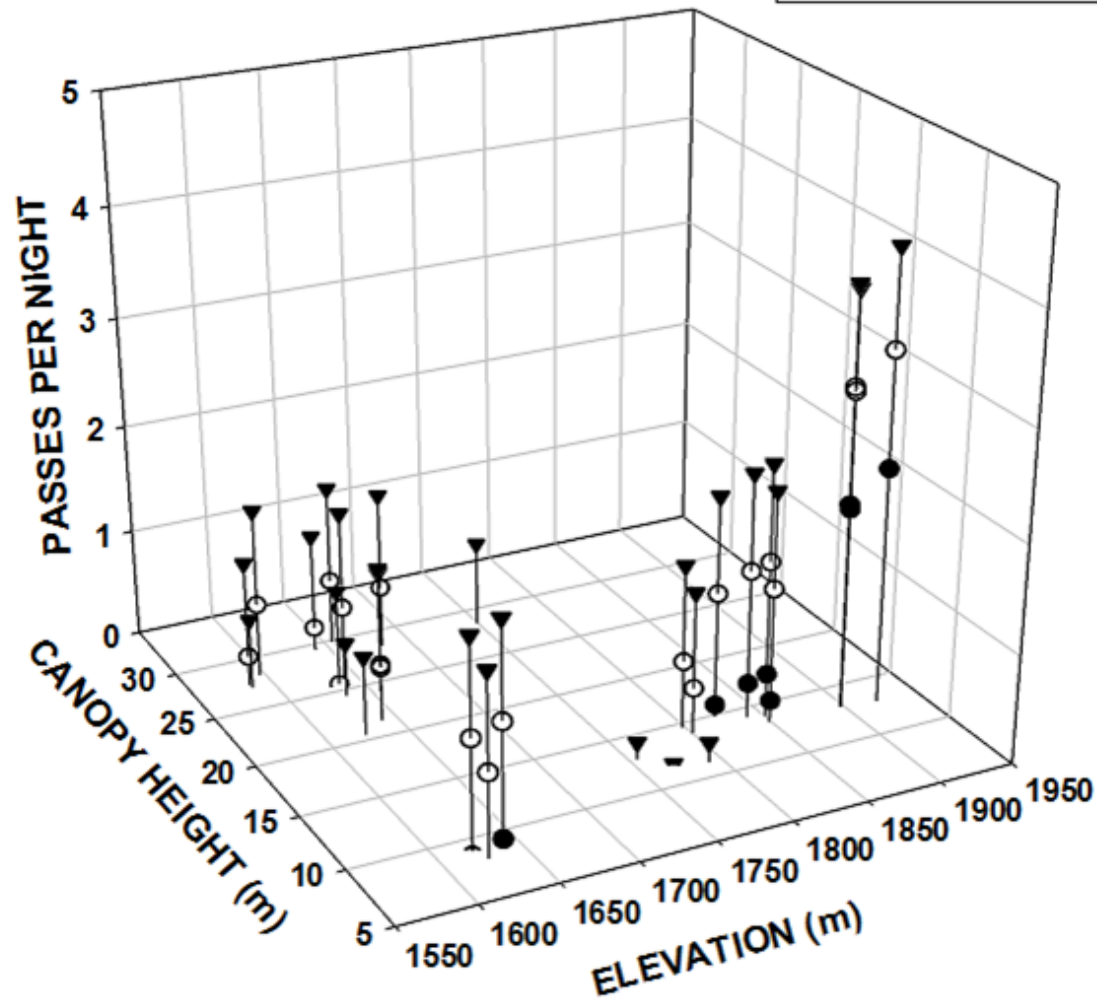
TREE BATS IN SPRUCE-FIR



- EASTERN RED BAT - detection probability = 0.14 ± 0.10
- HOARY BAT - detection probability = 0.56 ± 0.02
- ▼ SILVER-HAIRED BAT - detection probability = 0.41 ± 0.25

HOARY BAT

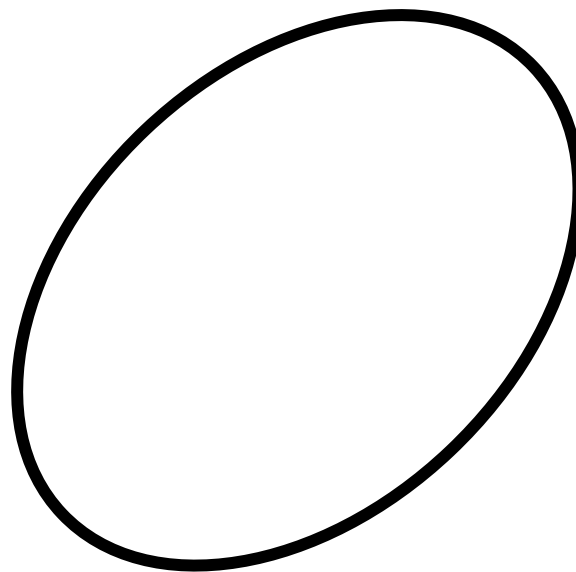
- FALL 2.57 ± 0.64
- SPRING 1.78 ± 0.22
- ▼ SUMMER 9.17 ± 1.97



vs. SHEN NP

FALL 2.85
SPRING 29.8
SUMMER 19.6

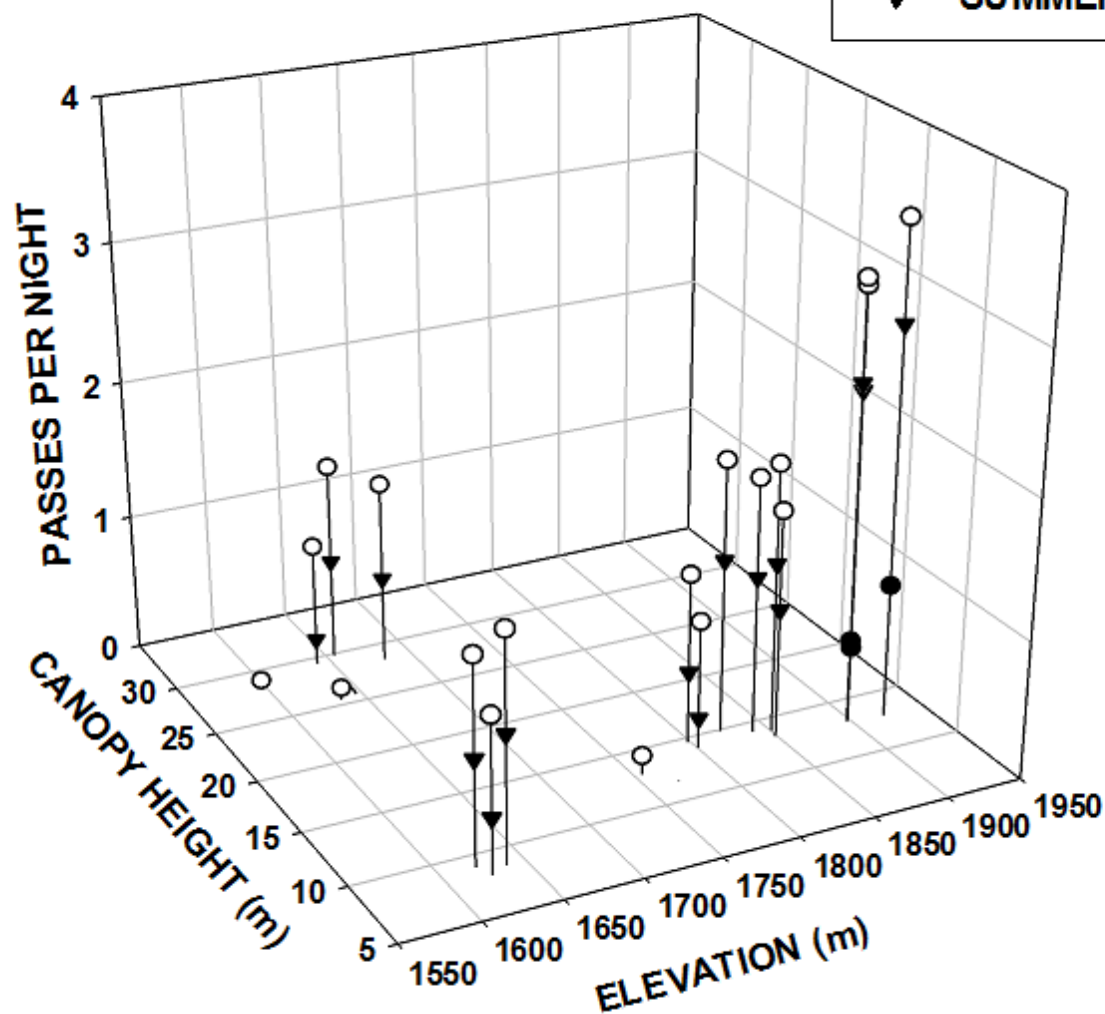
Tennessee



North Carolina

SILVER-HAIRED BAT

- FALL 0.64 ± 0.13
- SPRING 2.21 ± 0.37
- ▼ SUMMER 3.88 ± 1.36

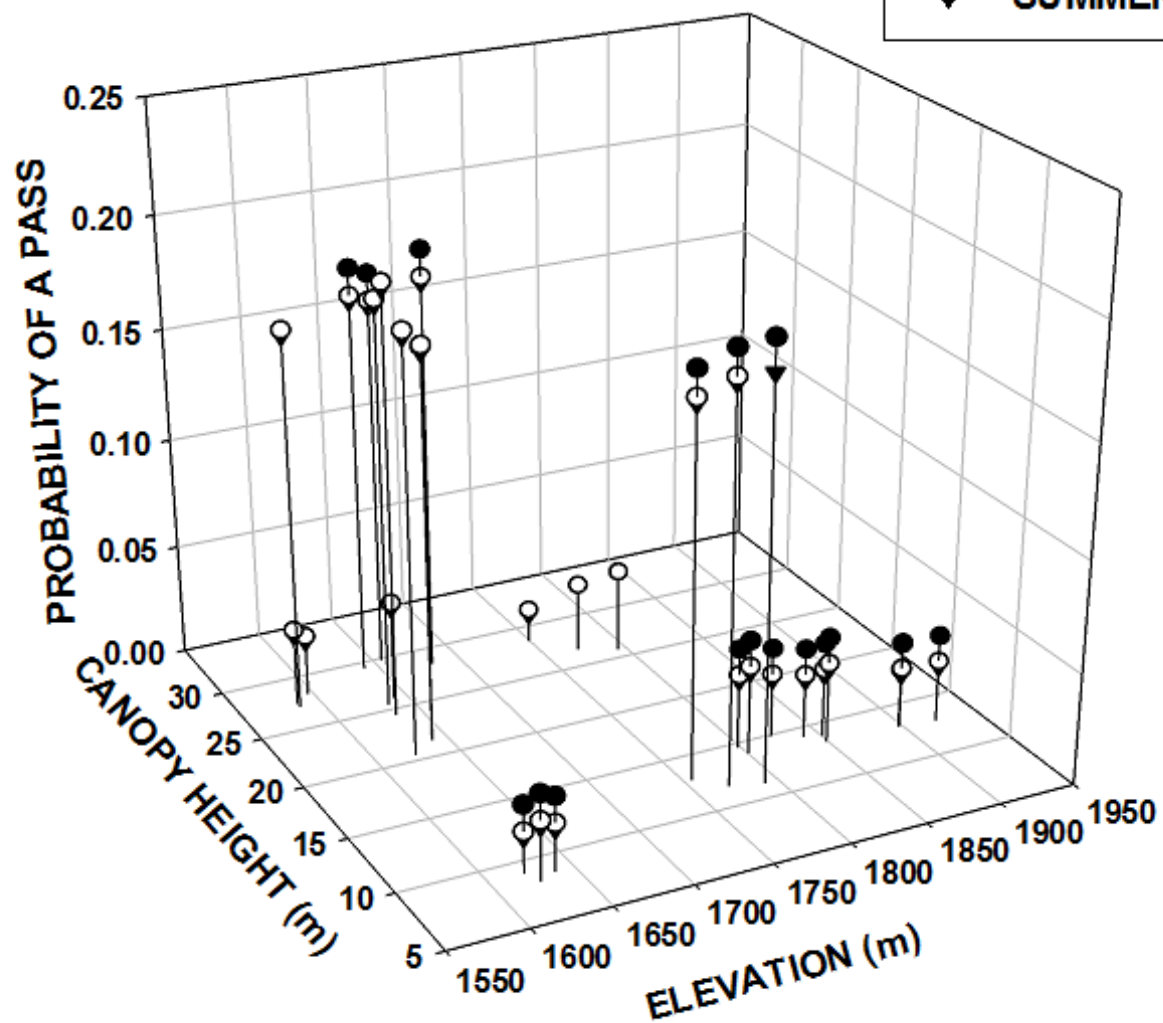


vs. SHEN NP

FALL 10.05
 SPRING 14.6
 SUMMER 13.58

EASTERN RED BAT

- FALL 0.06 ± 0.05
- SPRING 0.03 ± 0.01
- ▼ SUMMER 0.05 ± 0.02



vs. SHEN NP

FALL 6.75
SPRING 1.7
SUMMER 5.9

Next steps

- Explore relationships with canopy height and elevation on detection probability
- Explore relationships with patch and Sky Island size
- Expand to include > 1,000 m hardwood dominated ridges
- Summer netting surveys



Road ruts ARE good bat management