

Report of the Naturalist Study Group, a Citizen Science Team on May 2020 bat observations:

Team Members: Grace Nichols, Cynthia Johnson, Andy Arthur, Diana Morales, Diana Wright, Susan Longtin, Susan DuBois, Zach Squires

Materials: 4 Magenta 5 Bat Detectors.

Locations: Rapp Rd between an access gate and Gipp Rd, and 100 ft up Gipp Rd. This is across from Macy's.

Lawton Terrace, Gabriel Terrace, Tiernan Court, Rielton Court. This is the "ghost town" on Western Ave.

Dates: First observation 8pm to 9:30 pm on 5/10/20

Second observation: 8:15 pm to 9:45 pm on 5/16/20

Methodology: We stood at various points on the edge of the bat habitat and scanned frequencies from 15 kHz to 50 kHz, listening for bat calls.

Observations:

Night One: It was chilly about 37 degrees.

We heard some clicks; most were "clicks" but some were like moans or clunking.

about 8:20 pm: Rielton Court Dead end near hotel (abandoned garage): 21.4 hz, 23.0 hz. (Grace)

Nearby Zack heard 19.0 Hz.

8:24 pm. At Tiernan Ct: Loud Clicks at 23 and 21 Hz (Andy)

9:05pm Gipp and Crossgates 20.4 and 21.8 Hz (me)

Tree on Gipp Rd. 28 Hz (Andy)

Crossgates Ring Rd near little logging gate: 20.4 Hz (Diana M)

Incidental: A dead garter snake was found on Gipp Rd, onsite on the soil, next to the asphalt by Cyndy. This is mentioned because the DEIS did not find snakes on the 19+ acre site.

Night Two: It was warmer at about 70 degrees, and clear with a light wind.

Susan DuBois: 9B Lawton: 8:30pm nothing.

Tiernan Ct: 8:40 pm rapid clicking in the range of 22 to 43 kHz.

While facing the house, she saw a bat flying overhead at 8:51 pm. It appeared to be near the treetops.

8:55pm at house on Gabriel Court Clicks between 24 and 40 kHz.

9:20 pm: Corner of Rapp and Gipp, Clicks in the mid 20s of varying rapidity.

200 ft down Gipp at 9:28 pm short burst of clicks around 25 kHz.

Grace Nichols and Diana Wright:

8:30 pm at Lawton Terrace 21.7 ch ch sound. And 22.1 ch ch sound.

8:40 pm- 8:50 pm Gabriel Terrace

24.1 click

26 kHz low regular sound near a vacant house.

24.8 pops, rapid.

Lawton Terrace 20.5 clicks;

20.1 chirping.

22.4 chirping

Grace Nichols and Sue Longtin: on Rapp Rd, we stood about 20 ft from Gipp Rd.

9 pm

26.1 knock knock x 6x

19.8 8x Knock.

21.5 ch-ch sound.

9:10 pm

23.4 squeak, squeak

33.1 ch ch

33.2 ch ch

26.5 squeak

32.5 clicking.

Andy Arthur:

8:27 20.3 Few soft clicks (various points in the Ghost Town at Western Ave.)

8:30 pm 31.5 kHz squawk

8:32 pm 31.5 squawk,

8:35 21.5 click pop.

8:37 21.7 call

8:38 21.7 loud bat sound.

8:39 32.9

31.3 popping noise.

32.3 popping

8:45pm 34.3 Loud engine knock;

34.0 firecracker sound, very loud at Gabriel and Lawton Terrace.

8:49 25.5 loud popping.

Rapp Rd.

9:18 pm 24.9 Loud Click

9:20 pm 25.2 Loud click

32.7 chirping.

9:21 pm 19.7 chirping, popping.

9:22pm 19.2 chirping

Conclusions:

There are bat populations on all three sites. The bat calls we observed were between 19 and 43 kHz. We heard a variety of sounds at these frequencies which appeared to be from different types of bats. One observer saw a bat at Tiernan Court which appeared level with the treetops there.

More study is needed to characterize the bat communities which use Site 1, 2 and 3 as habitat. Our observations were only at the edge of the sites.

Additionally, all NY bat species are under threat due to a variety of factors including insect population declines. It appears that some bats are thriving on all three proposed development sites. More study is needed to determine what species would be impacted by the proposed development and if there is any way to mitigate this type of damage to their populations.

We suggest that technicians, who are given permission to enter the sites, look for these bats using the analysis of bat calls, and mist netting if appropriate.