

University of Northern Colorado Biology Professor Publishes Research on the Impact of Climate Change on Western North American Bats



Dr. Rick Adams, a faculty member in the University of Northern Colorado's College of Natural and Health Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, has recently published a research article in the scientific journal *Ecology* that details significant declines in the reproductive success of female insectivorous bats during years when annual environmental conditions mimic the long-term predictions of regional climate change models. Such sensitivity to environmental change portends severe impacts to regional bat populations if current scenarios for climate change in western North America are accurate. In addition, bats act as early-warning indicators of large-scale ecological effects resulting from further regional warming and drying trends currently at play in western North America.

Dr. Adams research focuses on the field of mammalian ecology, with specific emphasis on the ecology and evolution of bats. His current research involves the relationship of water resources to population and community ecology of Coloradan bats. He also studies the development and evolution of bat flight mechanics using bone development in prenatal fetuses and in juveniles as they learn to fly. A third area of research involves natural disasters (hurricanes and volcanoes) and their effect on island bat populations.