

## **2014 NSS WNS RAPID RESPONSE FUND GRANT SUMMARY**

**2014-1. Title: "Is white-nose syndrome a threat to Chinese bats? The status of *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* in hibernacula across China."**

Award Recipient: Joseph Hoyt (<http://research.pbsci.ucsc.edu/eeb/hoyt/>) Graduate Student, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Santa Cruz

Grant Amount: \$800.00

PROJECT SUMMARY: We propose to sample bat hibernacula (caves, mines, and tunnels occupied by hibernating bats) across northeastern China for the fungal pathogen associated with white-nose syndrome (WNS), *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*. If *P. destructans* exists across China without associated declines, it would suggest that Chinese bats have also coexisted with this pathogen for a long period of time and are not threatened by the pathogen in the same way North American bats are. Alternatively, if *P. destructans* is not present in China, the introduction of this pathogen could pose a major threat to Chinese bat populations. Samples will be collected during the summer from hibernacula soil and wall substrate, specifically targeting locations where bats roost during the winter. Samples will be tested in collaboration with Professor Jiang Feng at Northeast Normal University (NENU) using qPCR (Muller et al. 2012). This study will provide valuable information on the potential origins of *P. destructans* and the risk it poses to Chinese bats.