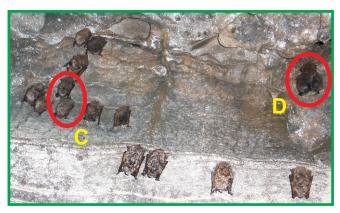
Environmental Assessment: Early Appearance of the White Nose Syndrome in NYS Bats

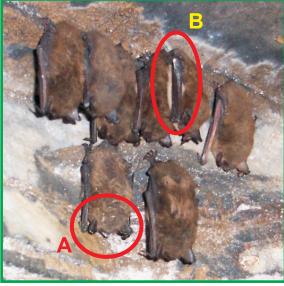


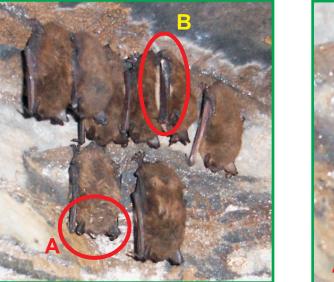
March 20, 2006 (Photo 1051)

A significant reduction in the bat population occurred in the lower non-commercial section of Howe Caverns between the winter of 2005-2006 and the winter of 2006-2007. Numerous dead and dying bats were observed in February 2006 in both the cave and quarry adit by Guenther and Rubin. By March 2006, the population of living bats was severely impacted. Very few bats were present during the winter of 2006-2007. The white-nosed bat in the upper photograph, and possibly a few others in the lower photograph, are among the first documented white nosed bats in New York State.



February 16, 2006 (Photo 332)







White-Nosed Bat



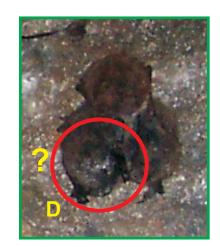




Figure 2 of 2

2-28-08