

1999 Trout Rock Bat Counts

by Bob Hoke

The annual bat counts in the three major caves in the NSS-owned John Guilday Cave Preserve (Trout Rock) were completed on Saturday, February 6, 1999. Trout Cave is only counted in odd-numbered years to reduce the impact on its small colony of endangered Indiana bats. Hamilton and New Trout caves are counted annually. The goal is to develop a long-term database that includes the same areas of each cave each year.

Trout and New Trout caves both showed significant and unexplained drops from their previous counts. On the other hand, Hamilton Cave showed a large increase over last year (although it was up only slightly from its previous high in 1997).

The counters in Trout Cave included Bob Hoke, Arnie Weisbrot, Roxanne Shively, Rachel Shively, Fred Grady, Craig Stihler, Jeff Wallace, and Elisa Bowman. New trout was counted by Fred Grady, Bob Gulden, and Dusty Gulden. Hamilton was counted by Arnie Weisbrot, Bob Hoke, Roxanne Shively, Rachel Shively, and Elisa Bowman.

One interesting observation was that a Pipistrelle bat was observed about 8 feet inside the Hamilton Cave entrance. It was actually in twilight and had to be aware of every party entering or exiting the cave since the passage is only about 4 feet high. It was observed as the counting team entered and exited the cave.

TROUT CAVE - 1999

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Little Brown	Sodalis	Total
Entrance area	0	3	0	0	3
Side Passage	0	0	2	7	9
Split in Trunk to 8-Ft Drop	99	1	3	12	115
8-Ft Drop to J-19	34	2	0	0	36
Maze Area	117	1	0	0	118
J-19 to End of Trunk	87	127	0	0	214
End of Trunk to Sq Room	25	0	0	0	25
Square Room	37	27	0	0	64
TOTALS	399	160	6	19	584

NEW TROUT CAVE - 1999

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Total
Entrance Passage		5	5
First Room	0	0	0
1st to 2nd Room Passage	0	0	0
Second Room	3	0	3
Bone Site	0	0	0
Big Room	18	3	21
TOTAL	21	8	29

HAMILTON CAVE - 1999

Area	Pip	Little Brown	Total
Entr to U-survey	11	0	11
U-Survey	15	0	15
Big Slab Room	34	3	37
Mud Ball Room	8	0	8
Big Slab Rm to C-12	54	8	62
C12 to Roselyn Esc.	89	8	97
Below Ros. Esc.	13	0	13
Ros. Esc to Pre-Form Rm	10	0	10
Pre-Formation Room	47	2	49
Formation Room	75	4	79
TOTAL	356	25	381

Total Counts by year

Year	Trout	New Trout	Hamilton
1982	1(?)	22	no count
1983	763	10	no count
1984	567	no count	32
1985	663	21	55
1986	no count	32	58
1987	874	43	101
1988	no count	44	114
1989	779	37	105
1990	no count	56	90
1991	564	37	106
1992	no count	41	161
1993	482	43	190
1994	no count	39	207
1995	593	61	273
1996	no count	58	316
1997	779	60	360
1998	no count	51	292
1999	584	29	381