

2002 Trout Rock Bat Counts

by Bob Hoke

The annual bat counts in two of the three major caves in the NSS-owned John Guilday Cave Preserve (Trout Rock) were completed on February 9, 2002. 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.

The counters in Hamilton Cave were Fred Grady, Bob Hoke, Pat Bingham, Dave West, and Karen Willmes. New trout was counted by Fred Grady, Pat Bingham, Dave West, and Karen Willmes.

The total count in Hamilton was lower than in recent years, but still relatively high compared to early counts. The New Trout count was lower than in any year since 1985. One possible explanation is that the 2001-2002 winter prior to the count was exceptionally warm and perhaps the bats went elsewhere seeking a colder environment.

NEW TROUT CAVE - 2002

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Little Brown	Leibi	Big Ear	Total
Entrance Passage	0	3	0	0	2	5
First Room	0	0	0	0	0	0
1st to 2nd Room Passage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Second Room	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bone Site	0	0	0	0	0	0
Big Room	13	1	2	0	0	16
TOTAL	14	4	2	0	2	22

HAMILTON CAVE - 2002

Area	Pip	L. Brown	Total
Entr to U-survey	17	1	18
U-Survey	10	0	10
Big Slab Room	38	3	41
Mud Ball Room	11	0	11
Big Slab Rm to C-13	43	4	47
C13 to Roselyn Esc.	58	4	62
Below Ros. Esc.	18	0	18
Ros. Esc to Pre-Form Rm	2	0	2
Pre-Formation Room	64	0	64
Formation Room	92	8	100
TOTAL	353	20	373

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
2000	no count	30	547
2001	621	29	480
2002	no count	22	373