

## 2003 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 February 8, 2003. Trout Cave is only counted in odd-numbered years to reduce the impact on its small colony of endangered Indiana (Sodalis) bats. Hamilton and New Trout caves are counted annually. The goal is to develop a long-term database that counts the same areas of each cave each year.

The counters in Trout Cave included Dave West, Karen Willmes, Meredith Hall Johnson, Craig Stihler, and Kieren O'Malley. Hamilton and New Trout Caves were counted by Fred Grady, Bob Hoke, Jim Gildea, and Pat Bingham.

The number of Pips in Trout and Hamilton were down somewhat from previous highs. Craig Stihler (who works for the WV Dept. of Natural Resources) said that the number of pips has been lower in several other caves this winter. The total number of bats in New Trout was the highest since 1997. A new bat, the Northern Long Ear was seen in Trout this year. (According to Craig Stihler, the northern long ear has gone by a number of names -- the oldest is probably Keen's bat or Keen's myotis. It has also been called the northern myotis).

### TROUT CAVE - 2003

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Little Brown	VA Big Ear	North. Long Ear	Sodalis	Total
Entrance area	3	4	0	1	0	1	9
Side Passage	0	0	0	0	0	18	18
Split in Trunk to 8-Ft Drop	60	1	5	0	1	5	72
8-Ft Drop to J-19	50	0	0	0	0	0	50
Maze Area	110	0	4	0	0	1	115
J-19 to End of Trunk	52	0	93	0	0	0	145
End of Trunk to Sq Room	14	1	0	0	0	0	15
Square Room	24	0	17	0	0	0	41
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>465</b>

### 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
2003	465	48	361

### NEW TROUT CAVE - 2003

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Leibi	Little Brown	Total
Entrance Passage	1	10	2	0	13
First Room	0	0	0	0	0
1st to 2nd Room Passage	0	1	0	0	1
Second Room	1	0	0	0	1
Bone Site	1	0	0	0	1
Big Room	23	1	3	5	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>48</b>

### HAMILTON CAVE - 2003

Area	Pip	L. Brown	Total
Entr to U-survey	15	3	18
U-Survey	11	0	11
Big Slab Room	32	2	34
Mud Ball Room	5	0	5
Big Slab Rm to C-12	57	4	61
C12 to Roselyn Esc.	45	2	47
Below Ros. Esc.	6	0	6
Ros. Esc to Pre-Form Rm	2	0	2
Pre-Formation Room	73	0	73
Formation Room	100	4	104
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>361</b>