

## 2005 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 12, 2005. 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, Craig Stihler, and Kieren O'Malley. Hamilton and New Trout Caves were counted by Fred Grady, Bob Hoke, and Charles Kahn.

Hamilton Cave set a new population record, New Trout saw a nice rebound from the relatively low count in 2004, and the total count in Trout was second only to the 1987 count. However, the big surprise was a dramatic and unexplained increase in the endangered Sodalis population in Trout. The "Total Counts" chart below shows the number of Sodalis bats seen in each count.

### TROUT CAVE - 2005

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Little Brown	Small Footed	North. Long Ear	Sodalis	Total
Entrance area	5	9	0	1	0	0	15
Side Passage	3	0	0	0	0	79	82
Split in Trunk to 8-Ft Drop	169	1	2	1	0	15	188
8-Ft Drop to J-19	33	0	0	0	0	0	33
Maze Area	221	0	1	0	0	1	223
J-19 to End of Trunk	91	0	115	0	0	0	206
End of Trunk to Sq Room	25	0	0	0	0	0	25
Square Room	52	0	17	0	0	0	69
TOTALS	599	10	135	2	0	95	841

### Hamilton Cave - 2005

Area	Pip	L. Brown	Total
Entr to U-survey	8	0	8
U-Survey	21	0	21
Big Slab Room	48	7	55
Mud Ball Room	9	0	9
Big Slab Room to C-12	114	6	120
C12 to Roselyn Esc.	95	0	95
Below Ros. Esc.	26	0	26
Ros. Esc to Pre-Form Rm	7	0	7
Pre-Formation Room	107	0	107
Formation Room	113	1	114
TOTAL	548	14	562

### TOTAL COUNTS BY YEAR

Year	Trout		New Trout	Hamilton
	Sodalis	Total	Total	Total
1982	1(?)	1(?)	22	no count
1983	21	763	10	no count
1984	14	567	no count	32
1985	2	663	21	55
1986	no count		32	58
1987	14	962	43	101
1988	no count		44	114
1989	19	779	37	105
1990	no count		56	90
1991	10	564	37	106
1992	no count		41	161
1993	12	482	43	190
1994	no count		39	207
1995	26	593	61	273
1996	no count		58	316
1997	24	779	60	360
1998	no count		51	292
1999	19	584	29	381
2000	no count		30	547
2001	24	621	29	480
2002	no count		22	373
2003	25	465	48	361
2004	no count		29	364
2005	95	841	42	562

### NEW TROUT CAVE - 2005

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Leibi	Little Brown	Total
Entrance Passage	2	5	4	1	12
First Room	0	0	0	0	0
1st to 2nd Rm Passage	0	0	0	0	0
Second Room	4	0	0	0	4
Bone Site	1	0	0	0	1
Big Room	21	0	0	4	25
TOTAL	28	5	4	5	42