

## 2006 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 Friday, February 10, 2006. The count was done on a Friday to allow Craig Stihler, from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, to participate in a partial count in Trout Cave. The goal is to develop a long-term database that counts the same areas in each cave each year.

Normally Trout Cave is only counted in odd-numbered years to minimize the disturbance to its endangered Indiana (*Myotis sodalis*) bats. However, a partial count of some areas was done this year to see if the unusually high number of Indiana bats seen last year would be present again. The rest of the cave was not counted. The number of Indiana bats was essentially the same as last year, so it appears that the bats have decided they like the cave for some reason. A temperature study is being done to determine if the cave environment has changed and become more favorable to the Indiana bats. (There are reports of thousands of Indiana bats in Trout in the early 1950's).

Hamilton and New Trout caves are counted annually. The number of bats in New Trout was unusually low this year, and fewer species were seen than in previous years. The Hamilton count was high, but below the large counts seen in 2000 and 2005. The Hamilton bats also seemed to be hibernating closer to the entrance than in previous years.

The counters in Trout Cave were Dave West, Karen Willmes, and Craig Stihler. New Trout Cave was counted by Fred Grady and Bob Hoke. Hamilton Cave was counted by Fred Grady, Bob Hoke, Dave West, and Karen Willmes.

### HAMILTON CAVE - 2006

Area	Pip	L. Brown	Total
Entrance to U-survey	26	1	27
U-Survey	19	0	19
Big Slab Room	27	0	27
Mud Ball Room	14	0	14
Big Slab Room to C-12	116	2	118
C12 to Roselyn Esc.	102	4	106
Below Ros. Esc.	23	1	24
Ros. Esc to Pre-Form Rm	8	0	8
Pre-Formation Room	89	0	89
Formation Room	81	0	81
TOTAL	505	8	513

### NEW TROUT CAVE - 2006

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Leibi	Little Brown	Total
Entrance Passage	1	5	0	0	6
First Room	1	0	0	0	1
1st to 2nd Rm Passage	0	0	0	0	0
Second Room	1	0	0	0	1
Bone Site	0	0	0	0	0
Big Room	13	1	0	0	14
TOTAL	16	6	0	0	22

### TOTAL COUNTS BY YEAR

Year	Trout		New Trout	Hamilton
	Indiana	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
2006	93	---	22	513