

## 2008 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 Saturday, February 9, 2008. Trout Cave was not counted because it is only counted in odd-numbered years to reduce the impact on its small colony of endangered Indiana (*Myotis 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 were Tabitha Viner, Fred Grady, Karen Willmes, and Bob Hoke.

The populations in both caves were down significantly from previous years. Hamilton was the lowest total count since 1998. New Trout was more in its normal range, but just over half the numbers seen in 2003, 2005, and 2007.

At the request of the W. Va. Division of Natural Resources, the Guilday Cave Preserve is now closed to all access to reduce the possibility of spreading the mysterious “White-Nose Syndrome” that is causing many bat deaths in New England caves. The WVDNR requested that this year’s count be done despite the cave closures.

### HAMILTON CAVE - 2008

Area	Pip	L. Brown	Total
Entrance to U-survey	14	0	14
U-Survey	2	0	2
Big Slab Room	33	3	36
Mud Ball Room	6	0	6
Big Slab Room to C-12	45	4	49
C12 to Roselyn Escalator	38	0	38
Below Roselyn. Escalator	15	1	16
Ros. Esc. to Pre-Form Rm	4	0	4
Pre-Formation Room	71	0	71
Formation Room	100	4	104
TOTAL	328	12	340

### NEW TROUT CAVE - 2008

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Small Footed	Little Brown	Total
Entrance Passage	1	5	2	0	8
First Room	1	0	0	0	1
1st to 2nd Rm Passage	0	0	0	0	0
Second Room	0	0	0	0	0
Bone Site	0	0	0	0	0
Big Room	15	0	0	3	18
TOTAL	17	5	2	3	27

### 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
2007	158	764	48	480
2008	no count		27	340

Note: a partial count was done in Trout in 2006. Only the Indiana bat population was counted.