

2009 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, January 30, 2009. Trout Cave 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 in Trout Cave included Craig Stihler, and Kieren O'Malley, Barbara Douglas, and Tabitha Viner. Stihler and O'Malley are with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. Douglas is with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Viner is with the National Zoo in Washington, DC. Hamilton Cave was counted by Bob Hoke, Jack Wallace (WVDNR), Cindy Sandeno (U.S. Forest Service), and Keely Owens. New Trout Cave was counted by Fred Grady, Dave West, Karen Willmes, and Rick Doyle (WVDNR).

Three bats in Trout Cave, and many in Hamilton Cave, exhibited the white fungus that is characteristic of White Nose Syndrome. The two most affected bats in Trout were collected for study. No WNS symptoms were seen in New Trout. See the separate article about the Hamilton bat count for more information about that cave's situation.

TROUT CAVE - 2009

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Little Brown	Small Footed	Northern Long Ear	Indiana	Total
Entrance area	0	20	7	0	2	0	29
Side Passage	0	0	1	0	0	99	100
Split in Trunk to 8-Ft Drop	59	0	0	1	0	40	100
8-Ft Drop to J-19	29	0	0	0	0	0	29
Maze Area	79	0	5	0	0	0	84
J-19 to End of Trunk	46	0	91	0	0	0	137
End of Trunk to Sq Room	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
Square Room	36	0	8	0	0	0	44
TOTALS	269	20	112	1	2	139	543

HAMILTON CAVE - 2009

Area	Pip	L. Brown	Va. Big Ear	Northern Long Ear	Total
Entrance to U-survey	212	11	1	0	224
U-Survey	4	4	0	1	9
Big Slab Room	7	8	0	7	22
Mud Ball Room	3	0	0	0	3
Big Slab Room to C-12	44	39	0	2	85
C12 to Roselyn Escalator	45	11	0	2	58
Below Ros. Esc.	27	1	0	1	29
Ros. Esc to Pre-Form Rm	4	0	0	0	4
Pre-Formation Room	14	0	0	0	14
Formation Room	22	3	0	0	25
TOTAL	382	77	1	13	473

NEW TROUT CAVE - 2009

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Small Footed	Little Brown	Va. Big Ear	Total
Entrance Passage	2	11	2	0	1	16
First Room	0	2	0	0	0	2
1st to 2nd Rm Passage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Second Room	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bone Site	1	0	0	0	0	1
Big Room	19	1	0	8	0	28
TOTAL	23	14	2	8	1	48

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
2009	139	543	48	473

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