

2010 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 26 and Wednesday, March 3, 2010. Trout Cave is normally counted in odd-numbered years to reduce the impact on its small colony of endangered Indiana (*Myotis sodalis*) bats, but a partial count was done this year to assess the impact of White-Nose Syndrome in the cave.

New Trout was counted on February 26 by Fred Grady, Dave West, and Karen Willmes. Hamilton was counted on February 26 by Keely Owens, Tabitha Viner, and Bob Hoke. The partial count was done in Trout on March 3 by Craig Stihler, Rick Doyle, Barbara Douglas, and Kieran O'Malley.

New Trout's bats showed no sign of WNS, although one dead bat was seen. The total New Trout count set a record. Trout showed significant drop in its Indiana bat population and bats in moist areas showed WNS signs. About 20 dead bats were seen hanging on the walls in Trout. The total population crashed in Hamilton and several surviving bats showed WNS signs. One dead bat was seen in Hamilton, but it was not a recent death.

TROUT CAVE - 2010

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Little Brown	Small Footed	Northern Long Ear	Indiana	Total
Entrance area	22	7	2	0	0	0	31
Side Passage	2	0	6	0	0	40	48
Split in Trunk to 8-Ft Drop	75	0	9	0	0	42	126
8-Ft Drop to J-19	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
Maze Area	80	0	0	0	0	0	80
J-19 to End of Trunk	33	0	11	0	0	0	44
End of Trunk to Sq Room	area not counted in 2010						
Square Room	area not counted in 2010						
TOTAL	232	7	28	0	0	82	349

HAMILTON CAVE - 2010

Area	Pip	L. Brown	Va. Big Ear	Northern Long Ear	Total
Entrance to U-survey	5	1	0	0	6
U-Survey	0	1	0	0	1
Big Slab Room	3	0	0	0	3
Mud Ball Room	0	0	0	0	0
Big Slab Room to C-12	10	2	0	0	12
C12 to Roselyn Escalator	3	1	0	0	4
Below Roselyn. Escalator.	2	0	0	0	2
Ros. Esc. to Pre-Form Room	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-Formation Room	0	0	0	0	0
Formation Room	2	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	25	5	0	0	30

NEW TROUT CAVE - 2010

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Small Footed	Little Brown	Va. Big Ear	Total
Entrance Passage	7	4	3	2	0	16
First Room	2	0	2	1	0	5
1st to 2nd Rm Passage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Second Room	2	0	0	1	0	3
Bone Site	5	0	1	6	0	12
Big Room	16	1	1	14	0	32
TOTAL	32	5	7	24	0	68

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
2010	82	---	68	30

Note: a partial count was done in Trout in 2006 and 2010. Only the Indiana bat population was counted.