

2012 Trout Rock Bat Counts

by Keely Owens

The annual bat counts in two of the three major caves in the NSS-owned John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve (Trout Rock) were completed on Saturday, March 3, 2012. Trout Cave is normally counted in odd-numbered years to reduce the impact on its small colony of endangered Indiana (*Myotis sodalis*) and this was not the year for a count.

New Trout cave was counted by Dave West, and Karen Willmes. Hamilton was counted by Keely Owens, Adam Lake, Gerry Carter, and Michelle Nowak.

The New Trout bat population of 33 was a bit below the pre-WNS average of 39. The bat population in Hamilton has plummeted from a pre-WNS average of 450 to three in both 2011 and 2012. None of the bats in Hamilton showed any signs of WNS.

All of the Trout Rock bat count data, and several historical articles documenting bats in the caves, are available on the DC Grotto Web site at www.caves.org/grotto/dcg/bat-counts/bat-counts.html.

HAMILTON CAVE – 2012

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

NEW TROUT CAVE – 2012

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Small Footed	Little Brown	Va. Big Ear	Total
Entrance Passage	3	2	2	5		12
First Room						0
1st to 2nd Rm Passage	1					1
Second Room						0
Bone Site						0
Big Room	2			18		20
TOTAL	6	2	2	23	0	33

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
2011	90	177	40	3
2012	no count		33	3

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