

2014 Trout Rock Bat Counts

by Keely Owens and Bob Hoke

The annual bat counts at the NSS-owned John Guilday Cave Preserve (Trout Rock) were completed on Saturday, March 1, 2014. Hamilton Cave was counted by Keely Owens, Neeka Owens, Gerry Carter, Michelle Nowak, Earl Suitor, and Cheryl Suitor. New Trout was counted by Dave West, Karen Willmes, and Bob Hoke. 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.

Hamilton had five bats and all were in the entrance area and one had WNS symptoms. The other four appeared to be clean.

New Trout had 28 bats, down slightly from last year's 30. None of the New Trout bats had any WNS symptoms. A cave rat was observed about 10 feet inside the entrance of New Trout. He was lying on top of a fresh nest about 10 feet inside the entrance. He didn't move during the count and didn't appear to be breathing. The counters debated whether to poke him to see if he was alive, but decided he might be semi-hibernating so he was not disturbed. There was no mold or fungus him.

HAMILTON CAVE – 2014

Area	Pip	L. Brown	Va. Big Ear	Northern Long Ear	Total
Entrance to U-survey	5				5
U-Survey					0
Big Slab Room					0
Mud Ball Room					0
Big Slab Room to C-12					2
C12 to Roselyn Escalator					0
Below Roselyn. Escalator.					0
Ros. Esc. to Pre-Old Room					0
Pre-Old Room					0
Old Room					0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	5

NEW TROUT CAVE – 2014

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Small Footed	Little Brown	Va. Big Ear	Northern Long Ear	Total
Entrance Passage	1	6	2		1	1	11
First Room							0
1st to 2nd Rm			1	1			2
Second Room		1					1
Bone Site							0
Big Room	6	1	3	4			14
TOTAL	7	8	6	5	1	1	28

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
2013	79	135	30	5
2014	no count		26	5

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