

2015 Trout Rock Bat Counts

by Earl Suitor

The annual bat counts at the NSS-owned John Guilday Cave Preserve (Trout Rock) were completed on Saturday, March 14, 2015. Hamilton Cave was counted by Erin Gilbert, Dr. Cassie Conely, Kai Gingeriche, Daniel McGrath, Andrew Hower, Earl Suitor, and Cheryl Suitor. New Trout was counted by Dave West, Karen Willmes, and Earl Suitor. Trout Cave was counted by Craig Stihler, Barb Douglas and Kieran O'Malley.

For the second consecutive count, no Indiana bats were seen in the side passage in Trout Cave that was formerly their primary hibernation site. The colony appears to have moved into the main passage. New Trout Cave continues to show no signs of WNS and the relatively small bat colony in the cave appears to be stable. Hamilton's colony shows no sign of recovery after its precipitous plunge following the discovery of WNS in the cave in 2009.

TROUT CAVE – 2015

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Small Footed	Little Brown	Va. Big Ear	Northern Long Ear	Indiana	Total
Entrance area	3	6	1		1			11
Side Passage								0
Split in Trunk to 8-Ft Drop	4		1	4	1		94	104
8-Ft Drop to J-19	10							10
Maze Area	3							3
J-19 to End of Trunk	1							1
End of Trunk to Sq Room								0
Square Room				1				1
TOTAL	21	6	2	5	2	0	94	130

HAMILTON CAVE – 2015

Area	Pip	Little Brown	Va. Big Ear	Northern Long Ear	Total
Entrance to U-survey	1	1 WNS			2
U-Survey					0
Big Slab Room					0
Mud Ball Room					0
Big Slab Room to C-12		1			1
C12 to Roselyn Escalator		1 WNS			1
Below Roselyn. Escalator.					0
Ros. Esc. to Pre-Old Room					0
Pre-Old Room		1 WNS			1
Old Room					0
TOTAL	1	4	0	0	5

Note: "WNS" means the bat had obvious WNS symptoms

NEW TROUT CAVE – 2015

Area	Pip	Big Brown	Small Footed	Little Brown	Va. Big Ear	Northern Long Ear	Total
Entrance Passage	1	5	4	1	4	5	20
First Room							0
1st to 2nd Rm			2			1	3
Second Room				1			1
Bone Site							0
Big Room	1		1	6		5	13
TOTAL	2	5	7	8	4	11	37

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		28	5
2015	94	130	37	5

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