

2018 Trout Rock Bat Counts

by Earl Suitor

On Saturday March 3rd, 2018 the annual bat counts took place for Hamilton & New Trout Caves on the John Guilday Cave / Nature Preserve of the NSS in Pendleton County, West Virginia.

Four Tri-color Bats from New Trout Cave were swabbed (snout & forearm) for *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* fungus and the samples were sent to a lab at Pennsylvania State University for DNA analysis to determine the geographic location of fungal origin. One Little Brown bat in the entrance area appeared to have WNS symptoms. The count in New Trout was done by Kevin Oxenrider (WV DNR), Berlyna Heres (WV DNR), Earl Suitor, Cheryl Suitor, Nikki Fox, Chris Coates, Meredith Weberg. New Trout Cave bats were counted first, as per standard protocol.

Only five bats were seen in Hamilton cave. The Hamilton count was done by Earl Suitor, Cheryl Suitor, Nikki Fox, Chris Coates

Trout Cave bats are counted at this time of the year in odd numbered years. Trout Cave Virginia Big Ear Bats are being studied this summer for late night behavior.

The raw numbers and long-term graphs are on the next page.

2018 Trout Rock Bat Counts

NEW TROUT CAVE – 2018

Area	Tri color	Big Brown	Small Footed	Little Brown	Va. Big Ear	Indiana	Northern Long Ear	Total
Entrance Passage	5	5	1	1			1	13
First Room		1						1
1st to 2nd Room								
Second Room		1		1				2
Bone Site								
Big Room	1	1		3		12		17
TOTAL	6	8	1	5		12	1	33

Note: One Little Brown bat in the entrance passage showed WNS symptoms. One dead Virginia Big Ear and one dead Tricolor were noted in the entrance area, but were not counted.

HAMILTON CAVE – 2018

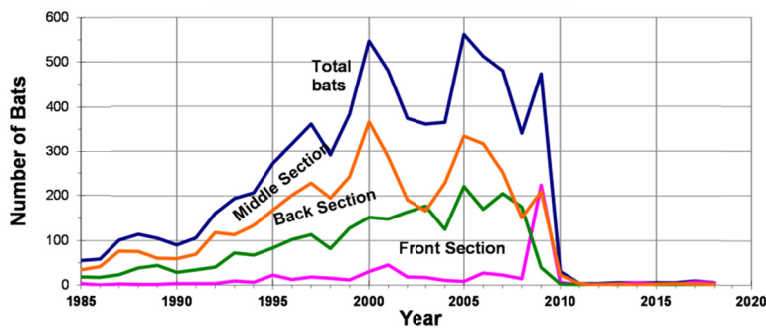
Area	Tri color	Little Brown	Va. Big Ear	Northern Long Ear	Total
Entrance to U-survey	3	1			4
U-Survey					
Big Slab Room					
Mud Ball Room					
Big Slab Room to C-12		1			1
C12 to Roselyn Escalator					
Below Roselyn. Escalator.					
Ros. Esc. to Pre-Old Room					
Pre-Old Room					
Old Room					
TOTAL	4	1			5

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
2016	no count		38	5
2017	67	90	30	9
2018	no count		33	5

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

Hamilton Cave Bat Counts 1985-2018



New Trout Cave Bat Counts - 1982-2018

