

(On University of Kentucky letterhead)

March 25, 1983

Dr. Virginia Tipton
Biology Department
Radford University
Radford, VA 24142

Dear Dr. Tipton:

Dr. Barbour is on leave this term and your letter of February 24 to us just now got to me. I hope I can answer some of your questions. Unfortunately my oldest bat banding notebook seems to have got lost several years ago when we moved to a new building. Perhaps it will turn up but I have now searched for it twice. The only old records I have left are the bat banding card file. I have leafed through some of those to get some rough data for you.

I first visited Trout Cave December 2, 1951. We had visited and banded in several of the caves that day and were pressed for time. We found a nice colony of Myotis sodalis and banded a couple of hundred. As best I remember we estimated the colony at over 600 bats. We returned to Trout Cave March 22, 1952 and banded another 250 M. sodalis. We banded a few Eptesicus, Pipistrellus and M. lucifugus.

On February 9, 1952 I banded 136 Pipistrellus in Hamilton Cave. The largest colony of M. sodalis that I have seen in West Virginia was in Minor Rexroad Cave. On November 9, 1952 we banded over 500 there. On February 10, 1952 we banded several hundred M. lucifugus in Hoffman School Cave.

I did not know about New Trout Cave until several years later. We banded bats there but I don't remember much about it. I never found any big eared bats in Trout or Hamilton caves.

I know nothing about Sinnit Cave. Thorn Mt. Cave, however, is one of those I studied for my thesis work. It was almost strictly a pipistrelle cave. We found a few Myotis lucifugus there and I think perhaps once one M. keenii but never another species. It is too warm for most bats. I am sending you a copy of my paper on the pipistrelles of this cave.

I have only vague memory of movements of P. townsendii in West Virginia. I think one I banded in Cave Mt. Cave we found later the same winter in an unnamed crevice cave nearby. Also it seems one banded in the Cave Hollow-Arbegast system later turned up in Pendleton Co. some 40 miles away. I think they probably don't travel very far.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Wayne H. Davis