

CRANBROOK INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

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Dear Rane:

I think I have deciphered the mystery surrounding "my early 40's count of 1600=2400 M. sodalis in Trout Cave". In the Table of Contents of the May, 1941 Bulletin of the National Speleological Society (when we were suffering growing pains) the inference is that I authored all of the items from p. 35 - Long Eared Bats to p. 44 - Systematic List of the Fauna Collected from Caves, when, in fact, I was responsible only for the latter article. The question still remains: who wrote the other articles, in particular the one about Bat Counting? Perhaps you could run an item in the NSS News to see if you could locate the author.

Incidentally, I did go back to my field notes and found the following dated February 22-23, 1941 - drove as far as Franklin (W. Va.) and a little beyond to a cave (Trout) some 200 feet or so above the highway, overlooking the South Branch of the Potomac River. The cave is in fossiliferous limestone and this limestone is covered with a black coating. In this cave were masses of hibernating bats (Myotis). Smaller bunches of bats were sandwiched in niches and cracks in the wall (Eptesicus).

This is all the light I can shed on the bats observed in Trout Cave in 1941. A letter dated March 26, 1941 from J. E. Graf, then Associate Director of the U. S. National Museum, identifies the bat collected on February 23 as Myotis sodalis. A subsequent letter dated June 14, 1941 identifies two additional specimens from Trout Cave as Myotis sodalis and Pipistrellus s. subflavus.

So much for now. More will follow re letter to Management Committee.

Most sincerely

Jim Fowler [signed]