

Hamilton Cave Bat Counts -- 1985-2024

Cave Area	Type	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027					
Area A (entrance area)	Tri	3		1	1	1	3	2	1	6	6	21	8	18	15	11	26	45	17	14	7	8	26	5	14	212	5		1	2	5	1	1	7	3	9	9		1	1								
	LB			1					1	2	3			4			3		1	3	3		1	17		11	1		1			1	3	1	3													
	Oth											1					1								1																2							
	All	3	0	2	1	1	3	3	3	9	6	22	12	18	15	11	30	45	18	17	10	8	27	22	14	224	6	0	2	2	5	2	1	7	4	12	10	3	3	1	0	0	0					
Area B (Crawl route to Slab Room)	Tri	2	1			3	1	1	7	9	4	9	15	13	5	15	35	23	10	11	9	21	19	6	2	4	1																					
	LB										2		1											9	4							1																
	Oth																								1																							
	All	2	1	0	0	3	1	1	7	9	6	9	16	13	5	15	35	23	10	11	11	21	19	15	2	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Area C (Slab Room)	Tri	5	5	5	5	6	4	6	15	11	10	9	22	20	16	34	36	42	38	32	32	48	27	36	33	7	3													1	2							
	LB						1		1	2	1	1	4	6	2	3	8	2	3	2	6	7		3	3	8																1						
	Oth																									7																						
	All	5	5	5	5	6	5	6	16	13	11	10	26	26	18	37	44	44	41	34	38	55	27	39	36	22	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0				
Area D (Mud Ball Room)	Tri	3		1	5	6	2	2	3	1	2	1	6	9	8	8	15	9	11	5	7	9	14	16	6	3																	2					
	LB																																															
	Oth																																															
	All	3	0	1	5	6	2	2	3	1	2	1	6	9	8	8	15	9	11	5	7	9	14	16	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0			
Area E (Slab Room to "C12")	Tri	10	13	31	34	15	23	19	45	39	47	77	52	62	66	54	104	83	43	57	62	114	116	81	45	44	10		1			1		1	1		3	5	6									
	LB		2	1		4	4	5	2	2	1	2	10	7		9	8	1	4	4	21	6	2	10	4	39	2	1		1		1	1		3			2	1									
	Oth																									2																						
	All	10	15	32	34	19	27	24	47	41	48	79	62	69	66	63	112	84	47	61	83	120	118	91	49	85	12	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	1	4	0	3	7	7	0	0	0	0				
Area F ("C12" to Roselyn Escalator)	Tri	10	9	25	20	14	14	19	32	27	51	62	65	66	66	89	92	72	58	45	59	95	102	63	38	45	3					2		1	1		1			2								
	LB	1	1			1	3	2	4	4	1		1	10	4	8	2	2	4	2	3		4	3		11	1				1			2														
	Oth										1															2																	2					
	All	11	10	25	20	15	17	21	36	32	52	62	66	76	70	97	94	74	62	47	62	95	106	66	38	58	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	1	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0		
Area G (area below the Roselyn Escalator)	Tri	3	7	7	11	11	6	14	6	15	12	6	6	31	23	13	52	41	18	6	17	26	23	21	15	27	2	1														2						
	LB		1	1											1	1	3							1	1	1										1					1							
	Oth																																															
	All	3	8	8	11	11	6	14	8	15	13	6	6	32	24	13	55	41	18	6	22	26	24	21	16	29	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0			
Area H (Roselyn Escalator to Pre-Old)	Tri		1	5			1	1	1	2	2	1	20	3	4	10	10	12	2	2	4	7	8	5	4	4		1																				
	LB		1																																													
	Oth																																															
	All	0	2	5	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	20	4	4	10	10	12	2	2	6	7	8	5	4	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Area I (Pre-Old Room)	Tri	11	7	12	24	15	8	15	19	31	33	39	50	50	39	47	68	64	64	73	71	107	89	97	71	14				1												3	1	2				
	LB										1				2	2	3																															
	Oth																																															
	All	11	7	12	24	15	8	15	19	31	34	39	50	52	39	49	71	64	64	73	71	107	89	97	71	14	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0			
Area J (Old Room)	Tri	7	9	10	14	27	19	16	20	39	33	42	50	56	42	75	73	82	92	100	53	113	81	107	100	22	2						1							3		1						
	LB		1	1		2	1	3	1	2		2	2	5	1	4	8	2	8	4	1	1		1	4	3				1												1						
	Oth																																															
	All	7	10	11	14	29	20	19	21	41	33	44	52	61	43	79	81	84	100	104	54	114	81	108	104	25	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0		

Cave Area	Type	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
Totals	Tri	54	52	97	114	98	81	95	149	180	200	267	294	328	284	356	511	473	353	345	321	548	505	437	328	382	26	2	1	4	5	1	3	9	4	11	10	9	8	18	0	0	0
	LB	1	6	4	0	7	9	11	12	13	7	5	22	32	8	26	35	7	20	15	43	14	8	43	12	77	4	1	2	1	0	4	2	0	1	9	2	3	6	1	0	0	0
	Oth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
	All	55	58	101	114	105	90	106	161	194	207	273	316	360	292	382	547	480	373	360	364	562	513	480	340	473	30	3	3	5	5	5	5	9	5	20	12	12	16	21	0	0	0

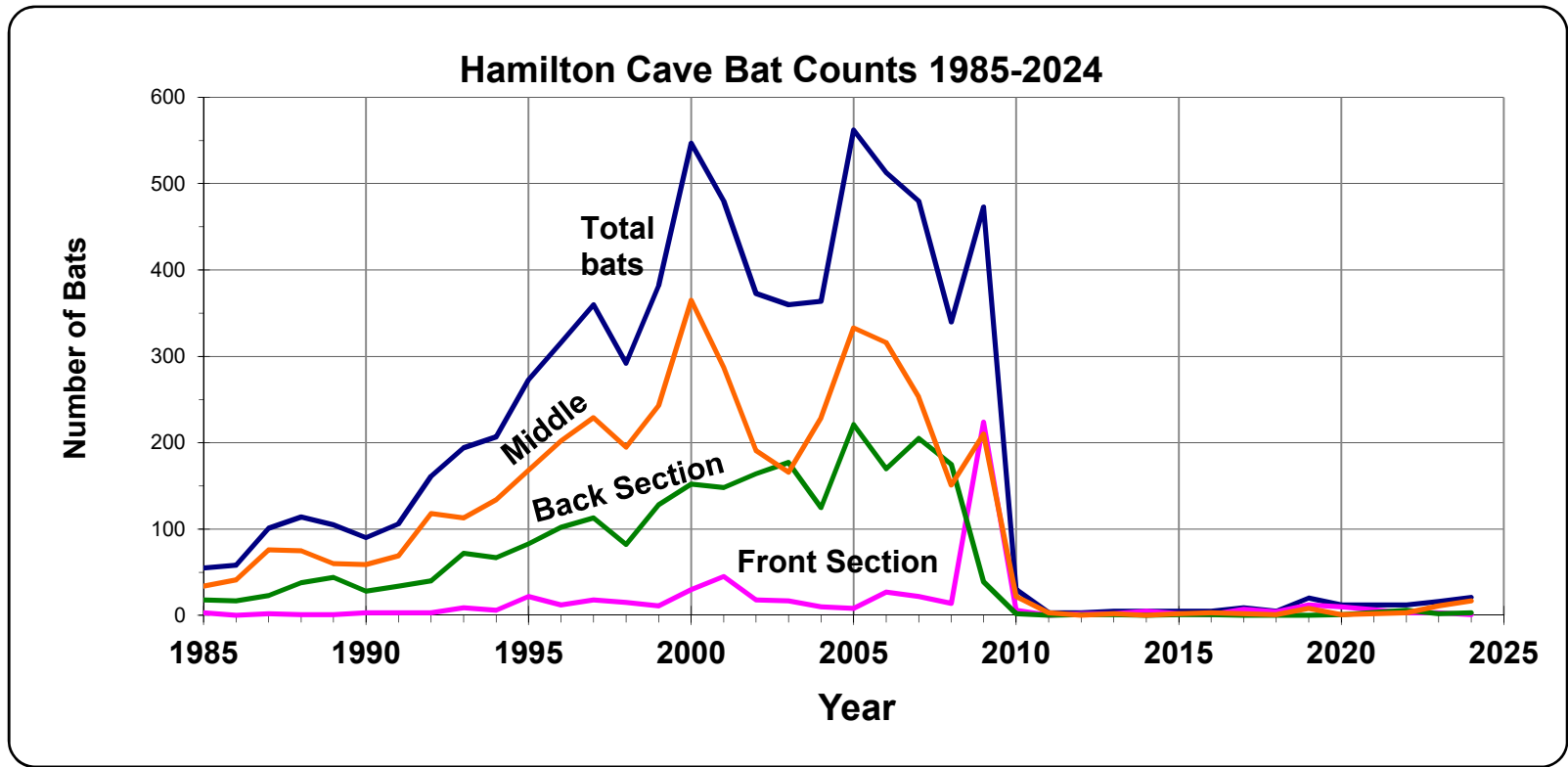
Bat Type Abbreviations: Tri=Tricolor (formerly Eastern Pipistrelle) LB=Little Brown Oth=Other types

Description of the counting areas (they are arbitrarily based on geography, not bat density):

- Area A The entrance passage and walking height "front maze." A total of about 650 feet of passage is counted.
- Area B The mostly crawl or stooping "trade route" passage leading from the front maze to the Slab Room (about 400 feet).
- Area C The Slab Room, a 35' x 40' room 3-12 feet high.
- Area D The 30' x 30' x 3' high Mud Ball Room, about 50 feet from the Slab Room and infrequently visited.
- Area E Mostly tall walking passage from the Slab Rom to an old survey station "C12" (about 375 feet).
- Area F The mostly large walking passage from station "C12" to the top of the Roselyn Escalator (about 125 feet).
- Area G The Roselyn Escalator and the passage from it to the Air Blower (about 200 feet)
- Area H The stoop/crawl passage from the bottom of the Roselyn Escalator to the entrance to the Pre-Old Room (about 100 feet).
- Area I The Pre-Old Room (about 125' long, 25' wide, 6-8' high)
- Area J The Old Room (100' long, 30' wide, 5-8' high)

Cave Description and Counting Procedure: Hamilton is a horizontal maze cave that trends slowly downhill from its small single entrance.

The front part of the cave is a mostly walking grid-like maze that is popular with youth groups. Multiple crawlways lead toward The back of the cave. After a couple hundred feet of crawling the main passage becomes mostly walking, with many tight side leads going off of it. A very tight crawlway (the Air Blower) leads to the back 1/3 of the cave. The count does not go past the Airblower. Two rooms are at the end of the counting route. Cavers who venture past the front maze usually go to the Air Blower and the count follows this route. There are three rooms that are counted that are not frequently visited (Mud Ball, Pre-Old, and Old). The same well defined areas are counted each year. No attempt is made to look for additional bat concentrations outside the standard counting areas. The goal is to develop a long-term database showing population changes over the years.



This graph shows the number of bats in the front, middle, and back sections of the cave for each year, as well as the total number of bats. White-Nose Syndrome was first seen in the cave in 2009. That year the number of bats in the entrance area spiked and the back section count dropped significantly. The overall bat population crashed in 2010 and has stayed very low since that time.

The data below is summarized from the raw data above and is used generate the graph.

CAVE AREA	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Front area	3	0	2	1	1	3	3	3	9	6	22	12	18	15	11	30	45	18	17	10	8	27	22	14	224	6	0	2	2	5	2	1	7	4	12	10	3	3	1	0	0	0		
Middle area	34	41	76	75	60	59	69	118	113	134	168	202	229	195	243	365	287	191	166	229	333	316	253	151	210	22	3	0	2	0	2	3	2	1	8	1	3	11	17	0	0	0		
Back rooms	18	17	23	38	44	28	34	40	72	67	83	102	113	82	128	152	148	164	177	125	221	170	205	175	39	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	6	2	3	0	0	0		
Total	55	58	101	114	105	90	106	161	194	207	273	316	360	292	382	547	480	373	360	364	562	513	480	340	473	30	3	3	5	5	5	5	9	5	20	12	12	16	21	0	0	0		

Count Dates and Participants:

- 1985 Feb. 10 Bob Hoke (solo trip with backup person waiting at the entrance)
- 1986 Feb. 15 (counter names not recorded)
- 1987 Feb. 15 Bob Hoke & others (names lost)
- 1988 Feb. 13 Bob Hoke, Jim White, Greg Smith
- 1989 Feb. 11 Fred Grady, Bob Hoke
- 1990 Feb. 18 Bob Hoke, Fred Grady, Rick Banning, Charles Kahn

1991 Jan. 19 Bob Hoke, Charles Kahn, Greg Sholly, Jim White
1992 Feb. 16 Jim White, Greg Sholly, Virginia Ayres, Mike Kubatz, Tom Wieland, Bob Hoke
1993 Feb. 13 Greg Sholly, Dave West, Karen Willmes, Denise Little, Bart Stiles, Fred Grady, Bob Hoke
1994 Feb. 12 Bob hoke, Fred Grady, Tom Kaye
1995 Feb. 18 Bob Hoke, Lizzie Molina, Pauline Apling, Dick Sanford, Ralph Hartley, Art Molina
1996 Feb. 17 Dan Stucky, Roxanne Shively, Rachel Shively, Eric Willison, Derrell Spence, Jim Gildea, Nate Shively, Dave Parvil, Arnie Weisbrot, Bob Hoke
(Note: In 1996 only 5 people counted bats at any given time)
1997 Feb. 15 Carl Weisbrot, Arnie Weisbrot, Bob Hoke, Barry Horner, Charles Kahn
1998 Feb. 15 Bob Hoke, Charles Kahn, Arnie Weisbrot
1999 Feb. 6 Arnie Weisbrot, Elisa Bowman, Bob Hoke, Roxanne Shively, Rachel Shively
2000 Feb. 12 Jim Gildea, Fred Grady, Roxanne Shively, Arnie Weisbrot, Bob Hoke
2001 Feb. 11 Roxanne Shively, Rebecca McKee, Fred Grady, Bob Hoke
2002 Feb. 9 Dave West, Fred Grady, Bob Hoke, Karen Willmes, Pat Bingham
2003 Feb. 8 Bob Hoke, Fred Grady, Jim Gildea, Pat Bingham
2004 Feb. 7 Bob Hoke, Fred Grady, Dave West, Karen Willmes, Past Bingham
2005 Feb. 12 Fred Grady, Bob Hoke, Charles Kahn
2006 Feb. 10 Fred Grady, Bob Hoke, Dave West, Karen Willmes
2007 Feb. 9 Karen Willmes, Bob Zimmerman, Bob Hoke
2008 Feb. 9 Bob Hoke, Fred Grady, Tabitha Viner, Karen Willmes
2009 Jan. 30 Cindy Sandeno, Jack Wallace, Bob Hoke, Keely Owens
2010 Feb. 26 Bob Hoke, Keely Owens, Tabitha Viner
2011 Feb. 28 Keely Owens, Fred Grady, Karen Willmes, Bob Hoke
2012 Mar. 3 Keely Owens, Adam Lake, Gerry Carter, Michelle Nowak
2013 Mar. 2 Keely Owens, Bob Hoke
2014 Mar. 1 Keely Owens, Neeka Owens, Gerry Carter, Michelle Nowak, Earl Sutor, and Cheryl Sutor
2015 Mar. 14 Erin Gilbert, Dr. Cassie Conely, Kai Gingeriche, Daniel McGrath, Andrew Hower, Earl Sutor, and Cheryl Sutor
2016 Mar. 6 Earl Sutor, Keely Owens, Daniel Poston, Nicole Daquilante, Corey Hackley, Neeka Grimm
2017 Mar. 5 Tom Griffin, Mason Griffin, Corey Hackley, Keely Owens
2018 Mar. 3 Earl Sutor, Cheryl Sutor, Nikki Fox, Chris Coates
2019 Mar. 9 Cheryl Sutor, Erin Gilbert, Kai Getrast, John Schoenewolf, Brandon Phibbs
2020 Mar. 8 Cheryl Sutor, Erin Gilbert, Earl Sutor, Emily Ward, Gerhart Hauptman-Diaz
2021 No count was done in 2021
2022 Feb. 20 Monica Sexton, Tyler Giblin, Mystic Miller, Ashley Hitchcock
2023 Feb. 17 Mystic Miller, Gabby Zawacki, Marissa Loftus, Cole Young, Katelyn Dean, Pat Frank, and Katelyn Frank
2024 Feb. 10 Anna Reachmack, Earl Sutor, Cheryl Sutor, Ashby Haines, Tiffany Folk, Meredith Hall Weberg, Melissa Smith, and Roy Voile