

(On Manhattan College letterhead)

May 3, 1984

Janet McCormick  
8028 Fenway Road  
Bethesda, MD 20817

Dear Janet:

According to my field notes I visited Trout Cave, Pendleton County, West Virginia, four times in 1955-1957. All visits were between November and April of the years' listed. Since at that time there were substantial numbers of Myotis sodalis present and I certainly did not foresee a time when their numbers would decrease so precipitously, I did not make any special attempt to count the number of bats present. The room at the end of the small passage that I always referred to as "the roost" had approximately 1,000 bats more or less evenly clustered on the ceiling, It should be emphasized that this number is an estimate. Since at the time I was more interested in collecting organisms to be found in the guano beneath the bats it did not occur to me to make a precise headcount.

There were additional clusters of 10-20 bats/cluster noted in a half dozen sites on the main passage, mainly east (towards the entrance) of the small roost passage. This would lead me to believe that all of Trout Cave should be considered a hibernaculum. I did make other visits to Trout in summer months in 1959 and 1960 when comparatively fresh guano seemed to be present, although, of course, there were few bats in the cave at the time.

Do you have access to the field notes of Nancy Rogers? Her records could readily confirm the presence of M. sodalis in Trout.

Sincerely,

/signed/

Brother Nicholas Sullivan  
Professor, Science

BNS:mk