

# **IKC UPDATE**

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# INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, INC

PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401

[ikc.caves.org](http://ikc.caves.org)

*Affiliated with the National Speleological Society*



The Indiana Karst Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and preservation of caves and karst features in Indiana and other areas of the world. The Conservancy encourages research and promotes education related to karst and its proper, environmentally compatible use.

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Cover: Four Indiana bats in Saltpeter Cave, Monroe County. The one has unusual white fur but is not an albino. Photo by Keith Dunlap (2014)



**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REMINDER**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 22nd, 12:30 PM EDT**  
**MARENGO, INDIANA**  
**MARENGO CAVE**

The Annual Business meeting is for the purpose of Executive Board elections. Annual reports from the IKC Cave Patrons and Property Managers are also presented. And as always, the meeting is for members and other interested persons to have an open forum for talking about caves, karst conservation, and related topics. Past, present, and future IKC projects are discussed to solicit comments and input from our members and the caving community as a whole. The meeting is informal, and everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. The IKC Board wants your input.

Preliminary Agenda: Elections; Cave Patrons/Property Managers annual reports; Under-Earth Day projects at Shawnee Karst Preserve and Buddha Karst Preserve; Upcoming projects at our other preserves; Proposed chestnut tree planting; Indiana Cave Symposium; DNR cave access update; Financial reports; Land acquisition activities; and more....

Bonus #1: Prior to the meeting starting at 11:30 AM, the IKC will be providing a light lunch and the opportunity to socialize with other IKC members and Marengo Cave staff.

Bonus #2: Following the meeting (around 3 PM), attendees will be treated to a special tour of the commercial section of Marengo led by owner Gordon Smith.

Meeting address: 400 East State Road 64, Marengo, IN 47140. (812) 365-2705

**ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

**Mar 22 – IKC Annual Business meeting (see above)**

**Apr 26 – Under-Earth Day at Shawnee & Buddha Preserves (see page 7)**

**Apr 26 – Indiana Cave Symposium (see page 7)**

**Jun ?? – IKC Quarterly Board Meeting (date & location to be determined)**

**AUG 8-10 – Cave Capers (Crawford County Fairgrounds)**

For more information on the Indiana Karst Conservancy, visit our website at [ikc.caves.org](http://ikc.caves.org) or write to our PO box. Membership to the IKC is open to anyone or any organization interested in supporting cave and karst conservation. Annual dues are \$15. Please see inside the back cover for a membership application form or to make a much-appreciated donation. Donations can also be made by credit card using the donation button located on our website's home page.

The IKC Update, distributed for free, is published quarterly for members and other interested parties. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep the membership and caving community informed of IKC activities and other news related to cave/karst conservation. Submission of original or reprinted articles for publication is encouraged.

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## RAMBLINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

As some of you may know, I'm working for free. Again! And I like it. Working for free is called volunteering, and it's frequently on my mind. At the moment I'm spending my days shadowing a high school French teacher in preparation to taking over her classes during a three to four month maternity leave. I've been doing this for a month already, and for the last couple of weeks I've been teaching two of her classes each day for practice. So... what's French have to do with Indiana caves and karst? More than you might think... but you'll have to come to the Indiana Cave Symposium to hear about it (shameless plug). And what's in this for me? Just the usual... something that needs to happen gets done, and the person doing the volunteering – in this case me – gets the satisfaction of having made it happen.

Which brings me to the reason I'm bringing up the discussion of volunteering... the Indiana caving community lost two friends recently: Terry Clark and Tim McClain. For a detailed look at Terry's list of accomplishments in the caving world please refer to his obituary in the December 2013 *IKC Update*. I suspect everyone reading this knew him. For the gang of volunteers who got together for several days last summer to build the new bat gate at Wyandotte Cave, I know that none of us ever imagined that for many of us it would be our last time with Terry. I had the opportunity to sit outside the cave with him on several occasions, in between him using an acetylene torch to cut pieces of angle iron, and we chatted about everything and nothing. It was just classic Terry, with his dry wit and that twinkle in his eye. I'll miss seeing him at the Indiana Cave Symposium next month... we could always plan on Terry being there to help, socialize, and join in on the festivities.

And then there's Tim McClain. Tim was working as a volunteer at the time of his death. He was part of a team of people who were car-

rying heavy scuba tanks and gear nearly three miles into the Blowing Hole section of the Binkley Cave System. Not for himself, mind you, but to support somebody else's project to dive a sump deep in the longest cave in Indiana.

Brenda Shultheis tells me that Tim's caving career actually started in the late 80s and early 90s. As with many cavers, what started out as a casual hobby soon turned into a passion for exploring and surveying new caves. Although he was involved in many projects, early on, one of the most notable was helping with exploring and surveying in Two Bit Pit. Tim's interests changed and he took a long hiatus from caving while remaining an avid outdoorsman, e.g., hiking the Appalachian Trail.



In 2007 Tim started caving again with his friends John and Brenda Shultheis. Over the next six years Tim would participate in some of the greatest discoveries in Indiana caving in years, starting with the surveys in the American Bottoms cave system. Soon after, with a new interest in the Binkley cave system, almost every weekend a core group of cavers that usually included Tim surveyed and explored many new miles of cave. This work brought the Binkley System to the place of being one of the

longest caves in the United States, currently ranking 9th on the long cave list.

In early 2011, Tim McClain pushed down Joy's Gulp low water crawl and dug up through the breakdown with Nick Benton to connect Guy Stover's Pit with Binkley Cave. This gave them a shortcut to reach what is now the Indiana Caverns section of the cave. For a guy in his late forties, Tim was a phenomenal pusher of small, tight wet crawls.

Next, Tim, Rand Heazlit, and John Shultheis were the first to crawl through the connection passage that connected Blowing Hole cave to the Binkley system. Then, Tim was the first to squeeze through a small hole that intersected the upper river passage in the Blowing Hole section



of Binkley cave.

Salisa and I attended Tim's memorial service in Indianapolis. We were both struck by the depth of the sentiment expressed by each and every person that Tim was a completely giving and caring person. If somebody needed something, if there was some way to do it, Tim would find a way to make it happen. Tim was my friend. But I left his memorial wishing that I had made more opportunities to get to know him better.

So... I suppose I'm diverging from my usual rambling of cave and karst subjects. But that said, Terry and Tim were my friends and I guess this is my way of telling them good-bye. If there's a moral to this story it's the obvious one... treasure what you have, because it may be gone tomorrow. And if there's something you want to accomplish, now's the time.

*Jerry Lewis*

## NEWS BRIEFS..

- ❑ As has been previously reported, several cavers have been in discussions with the Indiana DNR for a post-White-nose Syndrome strategy to reopen state-managed caves. While the DNR is still taking a very cautious position, a "Letter of Understanding" has been signed between the DNR and the IKC to reopen a small number of popular caves. The final details for access are still being worked out and will require visitors to complete a short web-based training module, which will explain WNS, why and how to prevent it from being spread by humans, and proper decontamination procedures. The DNR will make a formal announcement when the access program is ready to start. The IKC will administer the program and host the training module.
- ❑ Bloomington public broadcasting station WTIU recently produced a great segment on Bluespring Caverns with narration by co-owner Jim Richards. The video can be viewed at <http://IndianaPublicMedia.org/TheWeeklySpecial/Bluespring-Caverns>. The IKC encourages our members to support and promote Indiana commercial caves. To learn more, go to <http://www.IndianaCaveTrail.com>
- ❑ With the threat of White-nose Syndrome in 2010, The Nature Conservancy Indiana Chapter closed both of the caves they own (Lost River Cave System in Orange County and Boone Cave in Owen County). At the request of the cavers surveying Lost River Cave, the IKC subsequently negotiated an agreement to allow limited access so that exploration and surveying could continue with Dave Tibbets appointed as the Cave Patron. Recently, the property containing the two private entrances to the cave system was transferred to the Hoosier National Forest and thus the access agreement has been automatically terminated. Exploration of the cave is likely to continue via special permits issued by the HNF, although participation may now be more limited.
- ❑ The Indiana Wildlife Diversity Program (previously known as the Nongame Section) invites you to play an active role in conserving Indiana's nongame and endangered wildlife. This program is funded through public donations to Indiana's Nongame Fund. The money you donate goes directly to the protection and management of more than 750 nongame species in Indiana. You can help Indiana's nongame species by looking for the eagle logo and the line provided on your Indiana state tax form to donate all or part of your refund. To donate directly, please write to: Nongame Fund, 402 W. Washington St. Rm W273, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or donate directly online at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/331.htm>.
- ❑ Due to bad weather, the December 14th, 2014 Executive Board Quarterly meeting was cancelled. Most of the agenda items will be rolled over to the March meeting, while the motion related to the DNR Interim Cave Access Program was conducted by e-mail.
- ❑ The IKC has gained one new member in the last quarter. Welcome Paul Kortepeter (546). The IKC membership currently stands at 187.



## LOOKING BACK AT KARST IN INDIANA

by John Benton

I have volunteered to write an occasional column for the *IKC Update* looking at past items, people, etc. associated with Indiana caves/karst. If the members have any ideas for future articles let me know ([JMBenton1952@gmail.com](mailto:JMBenton1952@gmail.com)), although I have a lot of notes for upcoming issues. This article marks the first.

### CAVE UNDER SPRING MILL INN

Most cavers know about the caves inside Spring Mill State Park (near Mitchell, Indiana): Donaldson/Bronson, Lower Twin, Upper Twin, Whistling, Hamer and others. But there is at least one more cave there, that seems to have been forgotten. According to a recent article in the *Grist Mill Gazette* - Winter 2013, a cave was discovered during the construction of the present Spring Mill Inn in 1936-37. Deep pilings had to be poured to straddle the cave, measuring 15 feet by 29 feet. The cave is located under the west wing, or to the left, if one is standing in front of the building. Little information is given on the find, and no cave map is known to exist. As far as I know, there are no photographs documenting the cave or entrance. The Inn opened to the public in 1939. There was an addition to the Inn in 1976, adding adjacent to the west wing, the current pool (indoor-outdoor) and meeting rooms, and 39 sleeping rooms making the current east wing (which was proposed in original design but

cut for costs).

After starting this article, Keith Dunlap uncovered some additional information on this cave. The Indiana Cave Survey database lists a Saltpeter Cave, that Spring Mill State Park Naturalist (at the time), Jill Vance, and caver Dave Tibbets and others looked for in 2011. No trace was found. There was a reference to this cave in Jan/Feb, 1961 *BIG Newsletter*, that says the cave ran from old family cabins (near the current day parking garage) towards the Inn, ending under Inn. Another naturalist's report from 1976 mentions a small blowhole was found near the site of parking garage, but no sign was visible in 2011 search. Nothing noted about why the name Saltpeter Cave was used.

Original plans to cool the Inn, called for cave air to be pumped from Donaldson Cave. This never materialized though, as it was feared the damp air might contribute excessive moisture and mildew to the structure. The original architectural design called for the building to be built of logs so that it would blend with the Pioneer Village in the park. But it was agreed upon, to use native Indiana Limestone on the façade of the building, that remains essentially the same today as when completed in 1939. Air conditioning was added in the 1960s.

So the next time you visit Spring Mill, be sure to walk over the cave found in construction, somewhere under the current west wing, probably under the current kitchen/dining area.



Aerial View, Spring Mill Inn, Spring Mill State Park, Mitchell, Indiana

Circa 1940 postcard of the original Inn.



## 2014 INDIANA CAVE SYMPOSIUM PREVIEW

by Keith Dunlap

The 22nd annual Indiana Cave Symposium, co-sponsored by the Indiana Karst Conservancy and Indiana Cave Survey, will be held on Saturday, **April 26**, in the Community Building at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds (one mile west of SR 37 on US 50 south of Bedford). The customary free cookout (burgers, brats, and other assorted meats and non-meat offerings) and pitch-in side dishes (please bring a covered dish or dessert to share) will start at 5 PM EDT. Presentations will begin at 7 PM. The *tentative* presentation titles and presenters (not in any particular order) include:

- Gas Monitoring Project and the Richard Blenz Nature Preserve Update – Anmar Mirza
- Historic Look at Cave Rescues and Incidents in Indiana – John Benton
- Indiana’s Closed Caves - a Historic Photo Compilation – George Jaegers
- The French Connection to Indiana Cave Biology – Jerry Lewis
- 2013 & 2014 Bat Counts – Keith Dunlap
- “Video Caver” Video – Mike Stoll
- Binkley Cave Update – Dave Everton

For more information about the Symposium, contact Dave Everton ([deverton@indiana.edu](mailto:deverton@indiana.edu) or evening phone 812-824-4380) or visit the Indiana Cave Survey website ([www.caves.org/survey/ics](http://www.caves.org/survey/ics)).



### UNDER-EARTH DAY PRESERVES WORKDAY – APRIL 26th

On the same day as the Indiana Cave Symposium (Saturday, April 26th), the IKC will be hosting our annual Under-Earth Day at two nearby preserves. We will start activities at 10 AM EDT at the Shawnee Karst Preserve just south of Spring Mill State Park. Tasks include planting a small number of trees, trail maintenance, invasives control, wildlife pond repairs, and a ravine cleanup. Later in the day, we will move to the Buddha Karst Preserve where we will plant more trees, cut grapevines, invasives control, and construct /install a small trail bridge. Even if you don’t have the time to volunteer, stop in and take a quick tour of either property before heading over to the Symposium.

The entrance to the Shawnee Karst Preserve property is 0.7 miles east of the entrance to Spring Mill State Park on the south side of SR 60. Look for the neighbor’s “4030” address sign and our driveway is immediately to the west of that sign. For more information, contact Property Manager Jerry Lewis (see page 2 for contact information).

The entrance to the Buddha Karst Preserve property is 0.7 miles south of the Buddha (crossroad of Tunnelton Rd and Old Buddha Rd). The parking area is on the west side of the road. For more information, contact Property Manager George Cesnik (see page 2 for contact information).

## 2014 WINTER HIBERNACULA SURVEY IN INDIANA

by Keith Dunlap

Traditionally, the Indiana bat hibernacula surveys were conducted biennially in the “odd numbered” winters, so 2014 would be an “off year”. However, due to the invasion of White-nose Syndrome (WNS) into Indiana, and the added costs it now takes to conduct these counts, the “odd-year” surveys have been scaled back such that only the largest “tier 1” hibernacula are visited. The 2013 results, conducted by Virgil Brack/ESI were reported in the December 2013 *IKC Update*.

To fill in the data gaps, and to further assess the impact of WNS, in January/February 2014, Scott Johnson (DNR) and others (including Tom Sollman and Keith Dunlap) visited fifteen “tier 2” sites. This article will summarize those visits, and as in the past, present the census numbers from a historical perspective.

In Crawford County, DNR-managed Saltpeter Cave near Wyandotte Cave had been showing a gradual upwards trend, peaking at 1399 bats in 2005. However, in 2007, 2009, 2012, and particularly this year, the numbers of all species have dropped significantly. In 2014 there were only 269 bats counted, a drop of 80% in nine years with the little browns (*Myotis lucifugus*) showing the greatest decline.

Just over the ridge from Saltpeter is Wildcat Cave, also DNR-managed. The bats in this cave have been dominated by little browns with some Indianas (*Myotis sodalis*) and tricoloreds (*Perimyotis subflavus*). Over the prior eleven visits dating back to 1982, the population has averaged 440 bats. In 2014, only 53 bats were found, a drop of 88%.

Also in Crawford County is Robinson Ladder Cave, owned by the IKC. Prior to WNS, the cave hosted an average of 388 bats over nine visits with a significant number being *sodalis*. In 2012, the population had dropped some (348) and many of

the bats showed signs of being infected with WNS. In 2014, the bat population completely collapsed with only a single big brown (*Eptesicus fuscus*) observed. This is a 99.7% drop and the greatest of any of the hibernacula visited this year.

Moving to Harrison County, privately-owned Swinney Cave has been showing a mostly upward trend since first visited in 1997. The 2014 visit found 261 Indiana bats, down from 2012, but the population still appears to be healthy.

Moving to Washington County, privately-owned Panther-Neyman Cave recorded 435 *sodalis*, the largest number for that species in ten visits. Conversely, the number of little browns found there were only 104, the smallest in ten visits. The other species were also near or at their lowest numbers since 1995. Overall, the drop was 40% compared to 2012.

Gypsy Bill Allen Cave in Martin County is owned by the Hoosier National Forest. The cave was first censused in 2001 and has had declining *myotis* numbers since 2005. In 2014, only 45 bats were found, down 85% from the maximum in 2003.

Moving to eastern Greene County, privately-owned Sexton Spring has had a small but fairly stable population averaging 90 Indiana bats since censusing began in 1993. The number of *sodalis* found in 2014 was only

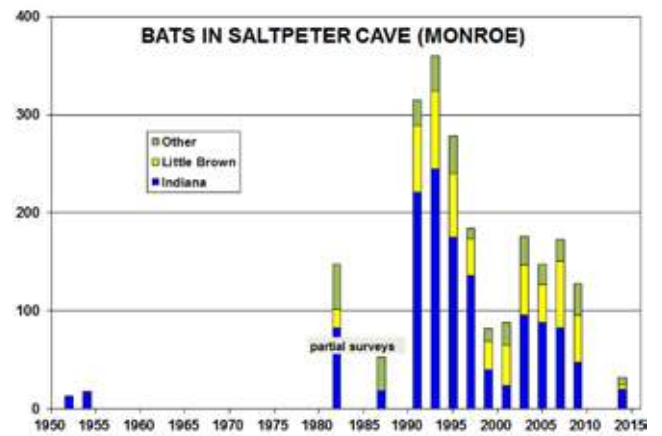
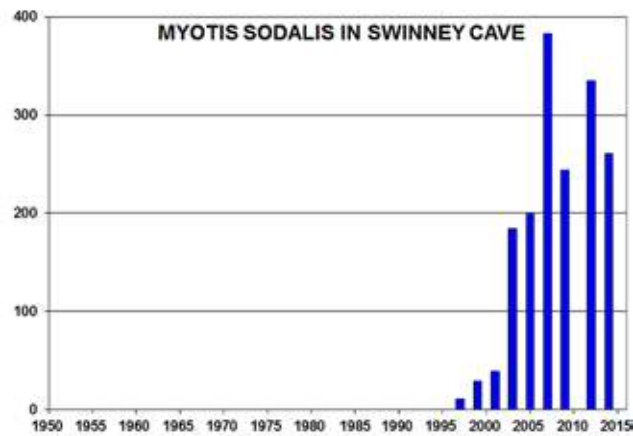
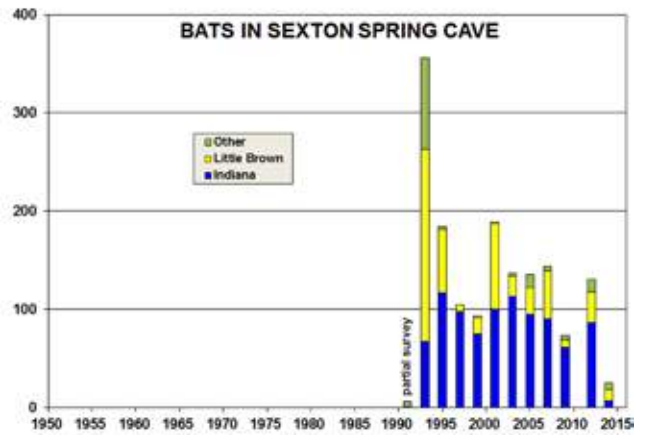
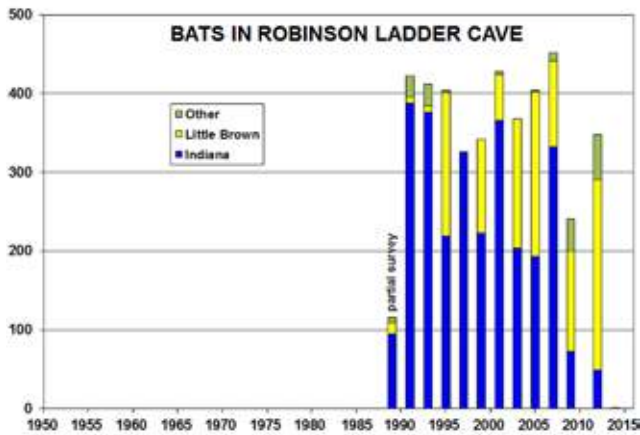
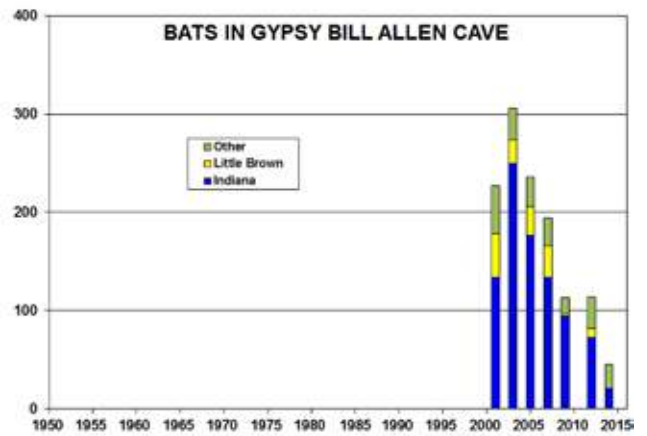
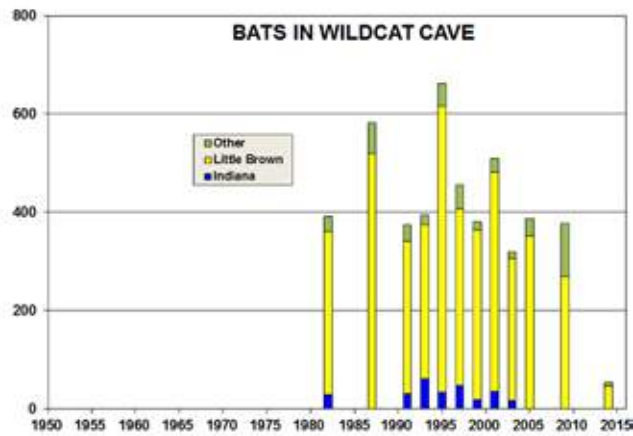
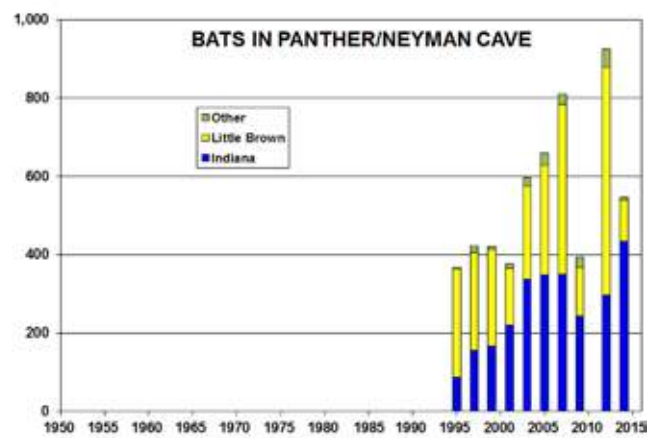
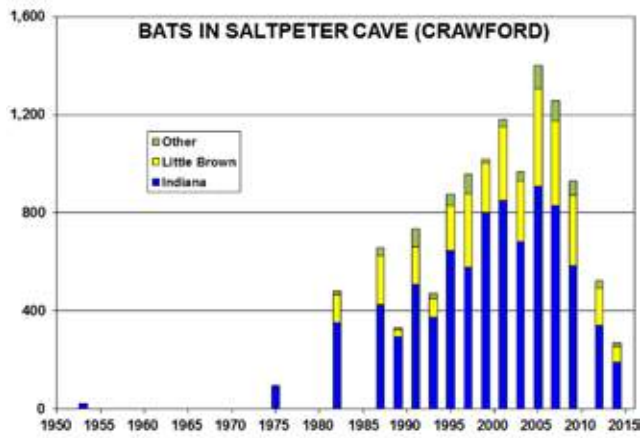
7, down 92%. Likewise the number of little browns which previously averaged 50 bats was down to only 11 (a 78% drop).

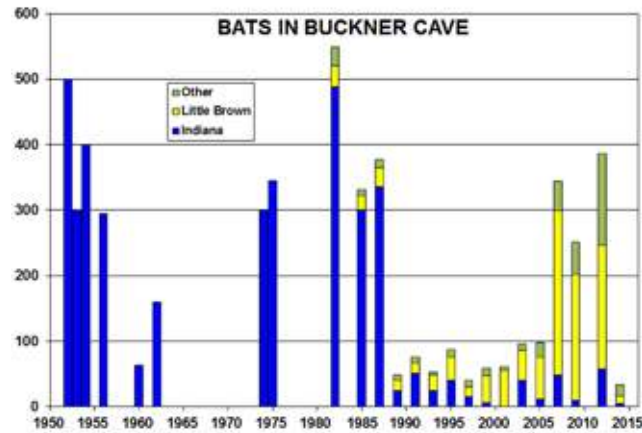
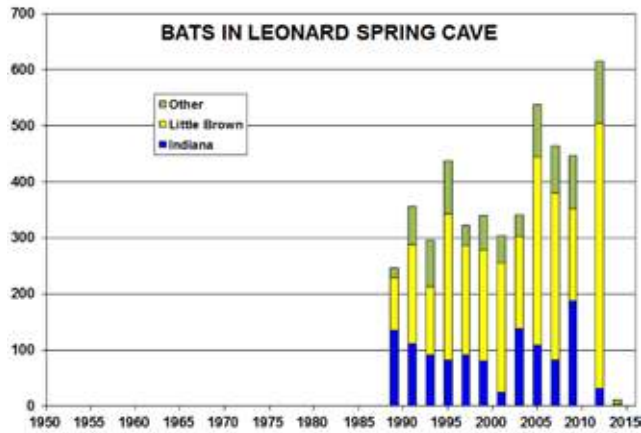
Privately-owned Saltpeter Cave in Monroe County has had a decreasing population since 1993. Most of the bats are located in a room off the entrance crawl that requires vertical gear to access. The room partially floods on occasion which may or may not be part of the problem. The greatest number of bats counted has been 357. This



A tight cluster of 134 Indiana bats in Swinney Cave. Photo by Scott Johnson, 2014.







year only 32 bats were found (a decline of 91%), again mostly in the side room. Of interest was a white-haired sodalis (see cover). This is not an albino as the bat had pigmented skin and eyes.

Nearby is Leonard Springs Cave, also privately owned. Over the last twelve surveys, the bat population has been gradually increasing. In 2012, 615 bats, mostly little browns were counted. There were many bats observed with WNS in 2012, so it was no surprise that the 2014 count would be down, but we did not anticipate the extent of the decrease. In 2014, we counted only 11 bats, a 98% drop.

The last of the long-monitored caves is Buckner, owned by the NSS. From 1952 to 1987, the entrance room of the cave was censused eleven times with a population of around 300 *sodalis* (the early counts did not document other species). After a winter rescue in 1989, the population dropped significantly, and stayed below 100 bats until 2007 when the population unexplainably tripled. The largest count in recent history was 386 bats in 2012. During that visit, there were numerous observations of WNS. In 2014, 34 bats were counted, a 92% decrease.

Five other hibernacula were visited in 2014, although long-term data is incomplete. Four visits were made to the Historic entrance area of Binkley Cave between 1997 and 2012, with 588 bats found on the last count. Considerable WNS was observed in 2012. In 2014, 302 bats were found, down 49%. Ashcraft Cave (Greene Co) has been visited five times prior to 2014 with the largest count of 220 bats in 1995, although more recent visits averaged only 40 bats. In 2014 49 bats were observed, several with WNS. In Sullivan Cave, owned by the IKC, 1027 bats were counted in 2012, but in 2014, we only found 64 bats (down 94%). In Brough's Tunnel in Clifty Falls State Park, 203 bats were

counted in 2012, but only 74 bats were found in 2014. Interestingly, 66 of the bats were big browns, which might be the largest winter congregation of this species in Indiana. Finally, Copperhead Cave (actually a mine) in Vermillion County was found to average around 200 bats (little browns and tricoloreds) for five visits between 2009 and 2013, but the 2014 count was only 13 (a 94% decrease).

Of the fifteen hibernacula visited, all but one (Ashcraft) showed a decrease in 2014 compared to the most recent previous survey. There were a total of 5418 bats counted in 2012 verses 1795 bats in 2014, a decrease of 67%. By species, little brown bats saw an 88% decrease, tricoloreds experienced a 55% decrease, Indiana bats saw a 29% decrease, and big browns saw a 45% increase (thanks to Brough's Tunnel). Qualitatively, the observed population decreases were consistent with WNS decreases elsewhere; that being, little browns are impacted the most, tricolored bats are impacted somewhat less, Indiana bats are hurt comparatively less (or at least take more years before the impacts are as significant), and big browns seem to have only minor impacts.

Anecdotal observations in 2014 noted few bats with WNS symptoms such as visible fungus on the muzzle and wings. This might mean that the surviving bats have a higher tolerance or immunity to the disease, or it might just be that there are fewer bats, such that there are less number of bats to observe the symptom. We also conducted the survey a few weeks earlier than in 2012, so perhaps the bats just had not developed the symptoms yet.

It is clear from the 2013 and 2014 surveys that little brown and tricolored bats have been extensively impacted by WNS. It is less clear what the eventual impact will be on the Indiana bats.

# SHAWNEE KARST PRESERVE WINTER BIRD COUNT

by Jerry Lewis

The day after Christmas found Ronnie Burns and me at the Shawnee Karst Preserve (SKP) to conduct the annual winter count of resident birds. The weather was crisp and clear, just a few degrees below freezing, but cold enough to retain a dusting of snow and the water in the ponds was frozen solid. We started the bird count at the circle at the end of the driveway through the preserve, at the first of 20 stations that I had established last year. At each station we stopped for 3 minutes to watch and listen.

This year we found 76 birds divided among 17 species, as compared to 81 birds of 20 species on 23 December 2012. Bird species that were seen this year, but not in 2012, were the Mourning dove, Pileated woodpecker, Eastern bluebird and Fox sparrow. The three most common birds at SKP this year were the Blue jay, Northern cardinal and Dark-eyed junco. All of the birds that have

been seen on the preserve are very common winter residents in southern Indiana.

The most interesting bird was the one we didn't see... at the last station we found a tall cedar tree from which the bottom limbs had been cut off to accommodate the trail. Along one side of the tree and on the ground below was a generous "white-washing"... the milky white droppings of an owl. Frequently owls roost in pines or cedars where they sit against the shelter afforded by the trunk. We eyed the top of the tree, but it was evident that the owl wasn't roosting there that day. The size of the droppings suggested one of the larger owls, and the two prominent possibilities inhabiting Indiana woodlands in the winter are the Great horned owl or the Barred owl. Perhaps on another trip we'll actually find the bird, rather than just its souvenirs.

Shawnee Karst Preserve Winter Bird Survey																											
Surveyors: Jerry Lewis & Ronnie Burns, 26 December 2013																											
Start: 9:00AM, 27 degrees, clear sky, slight breeze																											
Finish: 10:45AM, 37 degrees, partly cloudy																											
Station	Turkey vulture	Red-tailed hawk	Wild turkey	Pileated woodpecker	Red-headed woodpecker	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Hairy Woodpecker	Mourning dove	Blue Jay	American Crow	White-breasted nuthatch	Tufted titmouse	Carolina chickadee	American Robin	Carolina wren	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Eastern bluebird	Northern Cardinal	Eastern Towhee	Dark-eyed junco	White-throated sparrow	White-crowned sparrow	Fox sparrow	Song Sparrow	House finch	Total	
1									3	1	1				1			2	1							9	
2									1			1															2
3									1	2								1									4
4												1	1		1			1		1							5
5				1		1			3				2							1							8
6										1		1	1														3
7					2	1							1					1	1		1						7
8																						1					1
9									1		2	1															4
10						1															1						2
11																		2		1							3
12																		1									1
13											1	1															2
14									1				1								1						3
15													2				1				1	1					5
16																					1			1			2
17									1									3		2	1						7
18						1		2													1						4
19									1																		1
20	1					1															1						3
2013:	1			1	2	5		2	12	4	4	5	8		2		1	11	2	12	3		1			76	
2012:	5	1	5		5	4	3		7	7	4	5	11	1	1	1		7	3	4		5		1	1	81	



**INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY TREASURY REPORT**

**Income/Expense Statement  
From October 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013**

## INCOME:

Dues Apportionment and Residuals	690.00	
Donations - General	438.31	
Donations - Land Acquisition Fund	1,450.00	
Wyandotte Gate proceeds <sup>1</sup>	20,448.40	
Interest	<u>200.13</u>	
		\$23,226.84

## EXPENSES:

IKC Update (printing, production, mailing)	245.58	
Education / Outreach	0.00	
Stewardship/Conservation	63.50	
Business (PO box rental, meeting, misc fees)	112.14	
Insurance	829.50	
Donations	100.00	
Ind Acad Science grant	1,255.80	
Transfers to/from restricted funds/other adjustments	<u>327.16</u>	
		(\$2,933.68)

NET OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT) THIS PERIOD: \$20,293.16

**Balance Sheet  
December 31, 2013**

## ASSETS:

Cash in Checking / Saving Accounts / CDs	130,217.21	
Robinson Ladder Cave Preserve (73.48 acres)	162,000.00	
Shawnee Karst Preserve (50.31 acres)	105,000.00	
Wayne Cave Preserve (20.00 acres)	75,000.00	
Sullivan Cave Preserve (28.00 acres)	72,000.00	
Buddha Karst Nature Preserve (36.84 acres)	29,000.00	
Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve (3.01 acres)	7,000.00	
Indian Creek Conservation Easement (valued at \$1/acre)	<u>13.16</u>	
		<u><u>\$580,230.37</u></u>

## FUNDS &amp; OPERATING EXCESS:

Land Acquisition Restricted Fund	29,215.95
Deferred Dues Restricted Fund (186 members)	2,422.50
Indiana Acad of Science	796.40
Stewardship Endowment Restricted Fund	53,318.52

Previous General Fund (total)	24,183.84	
Net Excess (Deficit) This Period	<u>20,293.16</u>	
Current General Fund (unrestricted)		44,477.00
Current General Fund (committed)	500.00	
Real estate liquidity (basis value)		<u>450,000.00</u>

Total Liabilities & Operating Excess \$580,230.37

## NOTES:

1) Wyandotte Gate ad hoc fund dissolved and reported as income (becomes unrestricted General fund)

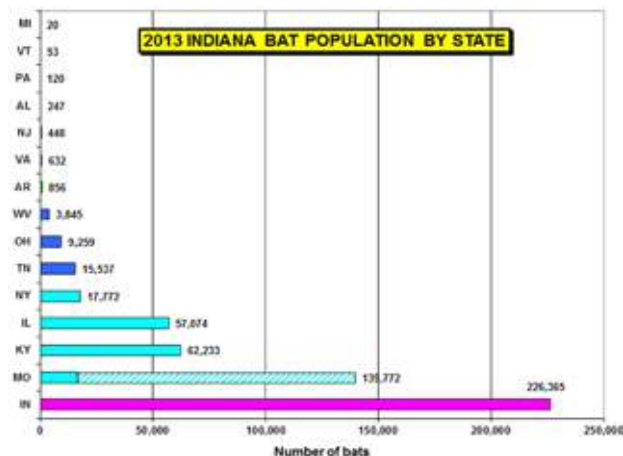
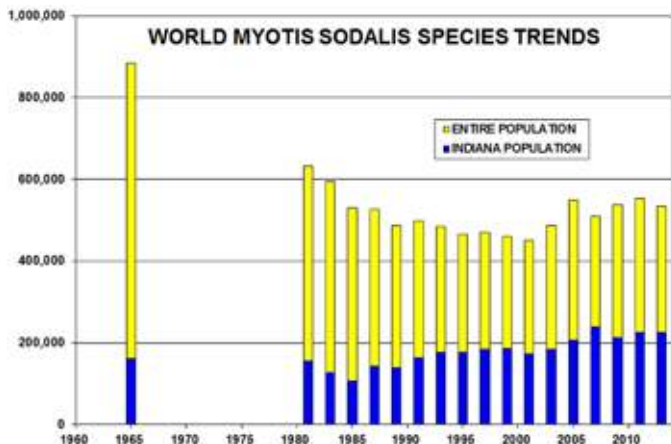
# RANGE-WIDE INDIANA BAT POPULATION STATUS

by Keith Dunlap

In the December 2013 *IKC Update*, I detailed the Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) population status pertaining to Indiana hibernacula. That same data was forwarded to and compiled by the USFWS to get the full picture of what the population is doing range-wide in all sixteen states where the bats hibernate. As the left chart shows, the 2013 population numbers are not significantly different from the last few surveys. The 2013 population in Indiana was slightly greater than in 2011, and the total population was slightly less. On the whole, the total population has been relatively stable for the past 30 years and the population in Indiana has actually shown a gradual increase over the same 30-year period. This

chart however needs a footnote in that a very large hibernaculum was “discovered” in Missouri in 2012. This one site (an abandoned mine) was found to have 123,000 bats. Since there was evidence that this population has been there a long time, and including it only in the 2013 total would suggest the population had greatly improved, the USFWS decided to add this new population to all years back to 1981.

The second chart shows the 2013 population broken down by state. Indiana currently hosts 42% of the total population. The new discovery in Missouri is shown as a hashed bar, demonstrating the significance of this mine to both Missouri’s total and the overall range-wide total.



**INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY, PO BOX 2401, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46206-2401**

I would like to help the IKC protect Indiana’s unique caves and other karst features. Enclosed is:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for IKC membership dues at \$15 per year (dues expire March 31st of each year, please pro-rate @ \$1.25/month).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation to the general IKC fund.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation restricted to a specific IKC project. Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I know of an area worthy of protection. Please contact me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer to help. Please contact me.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc. and mail to the IKC Treasurer, c/o Indiana Karst Conservancy, PO Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2401. The IKC is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with membership dues and donations fully tax deductible.

