

This permit report is for Rattling Cave in Cocke County, Tennessee. The permit was issued to Chris Ogle of Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). Myself and TWRA would like to thank SCCi for your support and partnership in conducting this survey. We look forward to continued efforts with SCCi in the conservation and monitoring of Rattling Cave.

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Chris Ogle (TWRA), Daniel Istvanko (TWRA), and Amanda Barton (SCCi) conducted a gray bat census of Rattling Cave. Upon rappelling into the cave, we first surveyed the short passages to the west and found some usage by a couple species of bats. We then continued to head straight toward what was called “The Basement” on the map. Here is where we encountered most of the bats. After using a density estimate method, we quickly moved out of the basement. We then explored a couple passages to the South, but were unable to find our way through the rest of the cave. Due to the gray bats waking up from hibernation so quickly, we decided to go ahead and ascend back out of the pit, as to minimize the disturbance to the bats. It is estimated that we explored less than 10% of the cave.

Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*) 85,955

Tri-colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) 3

Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) 1

We also had 5 band recoveries in Rattling Cave:

<u>Band Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Band Origination</u>	<u>Date of First Capture</u>
TWRA 05101	2/9/17	MYGR	M	Pearson Cave	7/11/16
F&W B00530	2/9/17	MYGR		Cocke Count, TN	
VDGIF A56309	2/9/17	MYGR	F	Bristol Culvert	8/26/14
VDGIF A60432	2/9/17	MYGR	M	Bristol Culvert	6/22/16
VDGIF A6339	2/9/17	MYGR	M	Bristol Culvert	8/26/14

Conclusions:

Rattling Cave turned out to be a new Priority Tier 1 Cave for Gray Bats. It is TWRA’s hope that we can continue to monitor this cave possibly with a census every 2 years, which is the timeframe for our other gray bat caves in the state. Also, there was some evidence of summer usage as well, and so we also hope to conduct some emergence county there over the summer.

I would like to thank the SCCi again for their support and willingness to partner with us on this endeavor.

Chris S. Ogle  
 Certified Wildlife Biologist®  
 Wildlife Surveys Manager  
 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
 3030 Wildlife Way  
 Morristown, TN 37814

(423)-587-7037

Cell (423)-693-6714