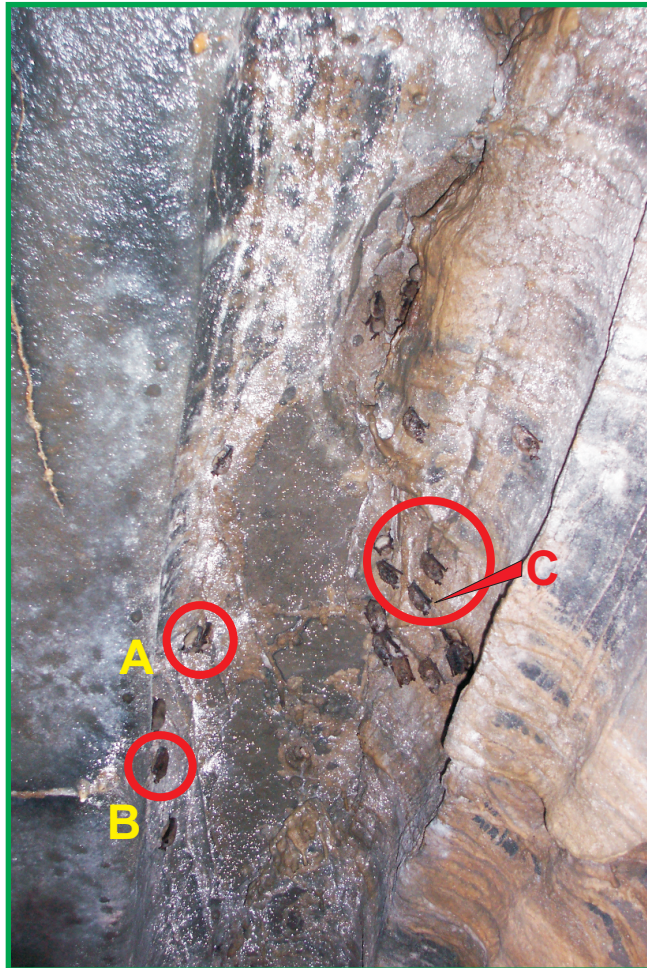


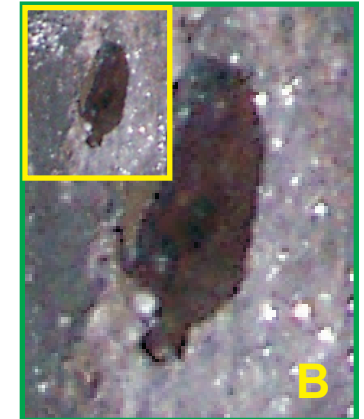
## Environmental Assessment: Early Appearance of the White Nose Syndrome in NYS Bats



February 16, 2006 7:30 p.m. (Photo 331)



White Nosed Bat



### Source:

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Bats in this photograph taken on February 16, 2006 are the first documented instance of bats in a New York State cave with the White Nose Syndrome. A significant reduction in the bat population occurred in the lower non-commercial section of Howe Caverns between the winter of 2005-2006 and the winter of 2006-2007. Numerous dead and dying bats were observed in February 2006 in both the cave and quarry adit by Guenther and Rubin. By March 2006, the population of living bats was severely impacted. Very few bats were present during the winter of 2006-2007, indicating that a massive die-off had occurred.

Figure 1 of 2

2-28-08