

Please provide the following text to John Apel.

From: Barry Keller
FAX 525-8070

During July, a Tuttle harp trap and Tuttle nets were used to assess bat populations using a water pool in a lava-tube cave at Craters of the Moon National Monument. Four species, including female Corynorhinus, were individually banded and released after data were obtained on the reproductive condition, sex, age, weight and forearm length of each individual. Because lactating Corynorhinus were found using the cave, night vision equipment was subsequently employed to count bat use during August. Caves studied previously in the North Caves Area were reassessed for overwintering bats in November, without success. Thermal profiles were collected until mid summer and new loggers were installed in November to compare thermal profiles in four caves during the winter of 1997-98. Outside funding is being sought to begin a major analysis of summer populations of bats using the North Cave Area for night roosting. This study, to be undertaken by Dr. Keller while he is on sabbatical leave from Idaho State University, will include automated equipment to study nursery colony sites, previously found to support nursery colonies of C. townsendii, from mid- May to September. To date, these sites have not been disturbed during periods that pup rearing would occur. A proposal for a graduate thesis will also be prepared for a study of a specific species at Craters.