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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

BATS

January 12, 1943

MEMORANDUM for the Superintendent,
Southwestern National Monuments.

Reference is made to your memorandum of November 28, 1942 regarding information requested by Mr. Cahalane relative to bat flights from a cave in Bandelier National Monument.

As I was in Coolidge during the month of August, little information other than that given by Acting Custodian Eden in the August monthly report can be furnished. The cave in question is located in the cliff above the extreme west end of the Long House Ruin in Frijoles Canyon. The cave is located in the steep cliff approximately fifty feet above the ground surface. It is inaccessible without the use of fire ladders or special equipment. There is no record of anyone ever having reached it or explored it.

We have known for several years that numbers of bats inhabited the cave. Bat Guano to the depth of several inches is deposited below the entrance each year. Whether the bats were so unusually numerous this year as to be noticed or whether their flights have taken place in previous years is not known. The flight was discovered quite by accident this year by seasonal ranger who took a party to the ruins just at dusk. The flight was so unusual that after the discovery, a number of interested parties were taken to the cave especially to witness the flight.

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The flight is described by witnesses as lasting several minutes during which time thousands of bats poured from the cave.

The Custodian has knowledge of a similar cave located about a quarter of a mile above the Upper Falls of the Frijoles and a mile and a half below the Headquarters. Altho mass flights have never been witnessed from this cave, large deposits of guano attest to the number of bats occupying the retreat. It might be added that crevices and cracks in the canyon walls throughout the monument are known to be utilized by bats.

DEBUT. PHILE

No specimens have been taken and no information is available as to species, etc. Next season, studies will be carried on if possible to learn more of the bats at Bandelier.

Custodian.