

Post-Visit Report for AGATE FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT Mammal Inventory Small Terrestrial Mammal Inventory – June 2003

Bat surveys were attempted at Agate Fossil Beds National Monument from 13-15 June 2003. Weather was problematic, with nightly storms and winds continuing after the storms had passed.

Mist Net Effort

Mist nets were set over the main stem of the Niobrara at points south of the housing area and at the bridge along the hiking trail south of the Visitor Center. A long net was also set across the side pond that is north of the main stem, just south of the housing area. Bat detectors were used to determine whether or not bats were active in the area with trees at the western end of the Park. No bat activity was detected in that area, so no nets were set there. The nets along the main stem of the river produced one swallow, and the net over the side pond produced one nighthawk.

Acoustic Surveys

Acoustic surveys were conducted along the main stem of the Niobrara from south of the housing area to the hiking trail bridge south of the Visitor Center, and then up and around the fossil deposit sites, and back. An acoustic survey was also conducted among the trees in the western end of the park and in the immediate vicinity of the Visitor Center. While the latter survey produced no calls, the survey at the eastern end of the park did yield a few passes. These files await analysis and assignment to species where possible.

Other Observations / Collections

A porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*) was observed on the hiking trail bridge on the night of 14 June, and along the trail leading from the hiking trail east toward the side pond on the night of 15 June. White-tail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus* sp.) were also observed.

Future Work

Another attempt to survey for bats will be needed during the 2004 field season. This attempt is tentatively scheduled for mid- to late-June 2004, depending on weather and night-time temperatures.

Scanned: 1/20/04

entered 1/20/04

BibKey: 559799