

Post-Visit Report for FORT UNION TRADING POST NHS Mammal Inventory
Bat Inventory – July 2003

Fort Union National Trading Post National Historic Site was surveyed for bats on the nights of 10-13 July 2003.

Mist Net Effort

The evening of 10 July was used to conduct reconnaissance for potential net sites, and to run the bat detectors because it was too windy to run the mist nets. The wooded area to the west of the Fort was checked for possible netting sites. This area presented no pools of standing water. Although there were no really good net sites, we decided we would try to net this area the first calm night. The area between the Fort and the river were also examined, with even less potential observed. The Fort itself appeared to be an area of activity. All doors were locked, so we could not enter the Fort yard; however, we did place a bat detector at the gap in the south doors. A second detector was left in the woods to the west of the Fort.

On the night of 11 July, we set three mist nets in the woods west of the Fort. Two bats, both Little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) were captured in the woods. We also checked the Fort several times during the netting session to see if we could observe any bats flying. No bats were observed during these walk-bys.

On the night of 12 July, we set three nets near the south access to the Park (south of the river). Few bats were observed flying in this area, and most of what was observed was flying very high. One Little brown bat was captured and light-tagged. However, this bat flew to a nearby cottonwood and was never observed to leave.

On the final night, 13 July, we set four nets inside the Fort walls. One net was set up on the catwalk, and the other 3 were set on the ground in the Fort yard. Two Big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*) were caught right before a severe thunderstorm impacted the area. The bats were identified and released on the leeward side of the Fort as the winds were too strong for them to fly on the west side. The mist nets were struck and we departed the area as the deluge began.

Acoustic Surveys

Bat detectors were run the entire night of 10 July at the south door to the Fort and in the woods west of the Fort. One bat detector was run at each of the net sites on the nights of 11 and 12 July. The acoustic files recorded during these sessions await further funding for analysis and assignation to species where possible.

Alphabetical List of Bats Captured at Fort Union

Eptesicus fuscus – Big brown bat
Myotis lucifugus – Little brown bat