



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Jewel Cave National Monument
11149 U.S. Highway 16
Custer, South Dakota 57730

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N1615

January 23, 2009

Memorandum

To: JECA Central Files

From: Rene Ohms, Physical Science Technician

Subject: Jewel Cave Winter Bat Survey

On January 14, 2009, the annual hibernating bat count was conducted at Jewel Cave. Rene Ohms, Dan Austin, Ken Steinken, Brad Phillips, and Joel Tigner participated in the count.

We conducted the survey following a protocol that has been used at Jewel Cave since 1992. Two search routes were surveyed: one extending from the Milk River gate to the cave entrance (Heavenly Route); the second extending from the Dungeon Room to Surveyor's Hall (Dungeon Route). Attached are copies of the maps used, with the specific search areas indicated.

We began the count at 9:35 a.m. and split into two groups. Each search group proceeded to the end of their assigned route, then counted back toward the entrance. The Dungeon Route group (Joel and Dan) finished at 10:45 a.m., and the Heavenly Route group (Brad, Rene, and Ken) finished at 11:05 a.m.

Corynorhinus (921), *Myotis* (460), and *Eptesicus* (4) were found. When possible, the *Myotis* were identified to species. Each bat was counted, although numbers roosting in large clusters were estimated. Many bats may have been overlooked, particularly those that roost in small cracks, such as *M. ciliolabrum*. Temperature and relative humidity readings were taken in each numbered search area.

A total of 1,385 bats were counted. There were 997 bats along the Dungeon Route (COTO=733; MYOT=263; EPFU = 1) and 388 bats along the Heavenly Route (COTO=188; MYOT=197; EPFU = 3). Overall, 66 more bats were counted this year than last year. The greatest number of bats in a search area was 659 *Corynorhinus* in the Trap Door Room area, and the largest cluster (90 *Corynorhinus*) was also in the Trap Door Room area.

The temperature recorded just outside the cave entrance was 22.2°F, and the cave was inhaling.

cc: Todd Suess, JECA
JECA Interpretation
Joel Tigner

Mike Wiles, JECA
Brad Phillips, USFS

SUMMARY OF BAT COUNT RECORDS FOR JEWEL CAVE, 1950s TO PRESENT

<u>Year</u>	<u><i>C. townsendii</i></u>	<u><i>Myotis sp.</i></u>	<u><i>E. fuscus</i></u>	<u><i>P. subflavus</i></u>	<u>Total</u>
pre-1959					3500-4000 - reference in letter (anecdotal)
12/29/59-3/18/60	1137	unknown			1137 1137 COTO banded*
12/22-12/30/60	544	unknown			544 544 COTO banded*
12/28-12/29/61	291				291 291 COTO banded*
					(Total of 1,972 banded, 1959-61)
1967/68	600	unknown			604 (including at least 4 <i>M. ciliolabrum</i> and an unknown # of <i>M. volans</i>)
1969/70	1000	280			1280
1986/87	728	545			1273
1988/89	614	492			1106
1989/90	831	445			1276

New methodology established in 1992:

1992/93	1187	181			1368
1993/94	791	389			1180
1994/95	895	356			1251
1995/96	721	432			1153
1996/97	730	398**			1128
1997/98	593	479			1072
1998/99	901	454			1355
1999/00	853	466	2?		1321
2000/01	708	435			1143
2001/02	721	445	2		1168
2002/03	1135	470			1605
2003/04	886	457	2		1345
2004/05	1060	493	1?	1?	1555
2005/06	928	443	11		1382
2006/07	750	595	6		1351
2007/08	877	442			1319
2008/09	921	460	4		1385

* Banding records are held by National Biological Service, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC. (They have the original banding cards).

** Deep Canyon was not counted in 1996/97.

DUNGEON ROUTE COUNT, 2009

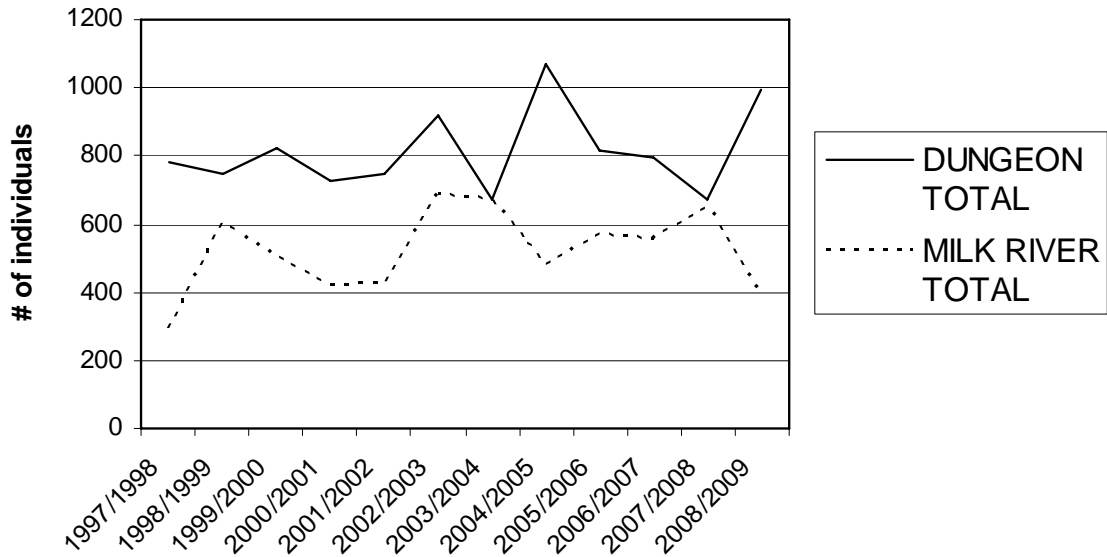
Survey Area	Temp	RH-%	Genus/Count	# in clusters	bats/cluster	avg/cluster	singles
Area #1:	31	50%	COTO = 5 MYOT = 0				5
Area #2:	37	51%	COTO = 659 MYOT = 0	630 in 26	3-90	24.2	29
Area #3:	40	62%	COTO = 12 MYOT = 0 EPFU = 1				? 1
Area #4:	43	69%	COTO = 53 MYOT = 0				?
Area #5:	42	70%	COTO = 2 MYOT = 2				?
Area #6:	44	96%	COTO = 0 MYOT = 261	[4 species]			?
Area #7:	22	66%	COTO = 0 MYOT = 0				
Lantern Room:	31	75%	COTO = 2 MYOT = 0				?
TOTAL for Dungeon Route			COTO = 733 MYOT = 263 EPFU = 1				

in clusters = total number of bats in clusters and total number of clusters (i.e., 41 in 5 means 41 bats in five clusters)
bats/cluster = size range of clusters
avg/cluster = average number of bats per cluster
singles = number of bats roosting singly

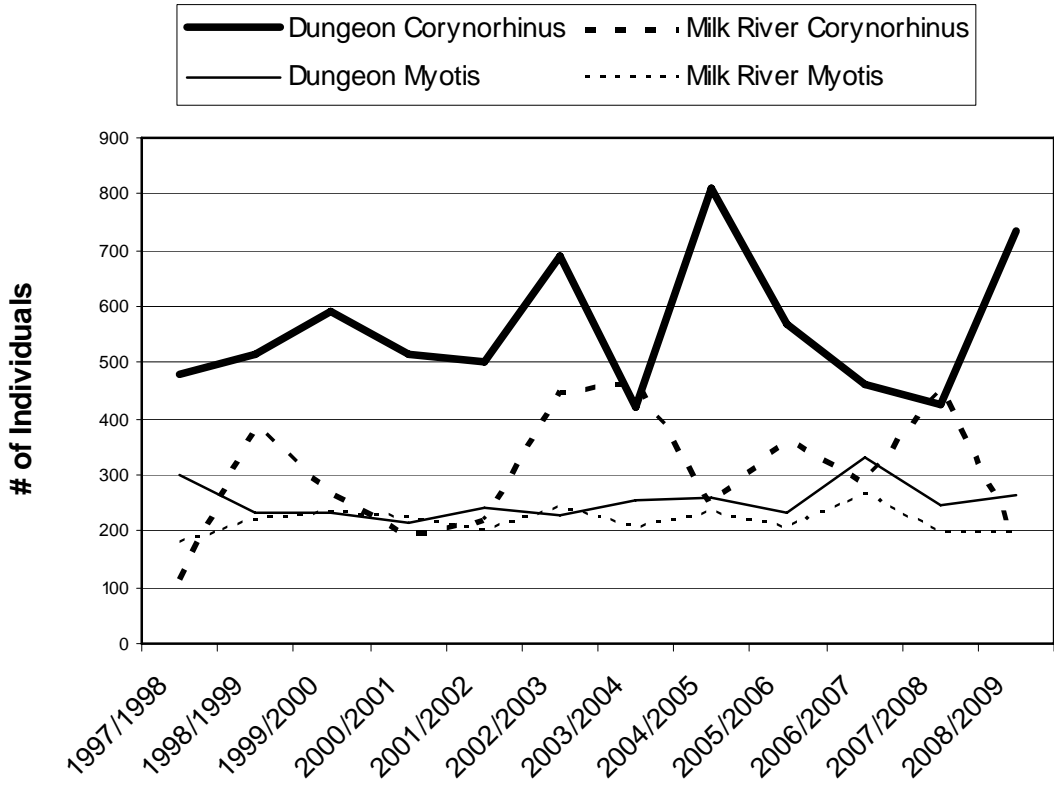
HEAVENLY ROUTE COUNT, 2009

Survey Area	Temp	RH-%	Genus/Count	# in clusters	bats/cluster	avg/cluster	singles
Area #8:	26	60%	COTO = 29 MYOT = 0	24 in 3	5-12	8	5 0
Area #9:	30	57%	COTO = 2 MYOT = 0				2 0
Area #10:	32	62%	COTO = 12 MYOT = 0				12 0
Area #11:	35	57%	COTO = 20 MYOT = 0	5 in 1	5	5	15 0
Area #12:	36	59%	COTO = 16 MYOT = 3				16 3 (<i>M. cil</i>)
Area #13:	37	57%	COTO = 31 MYOT = 1	15 in 1	15	15	16 1
Area #14:	38	57%	COTO = 42 MYOT = 3	30 in 1	30	30	12 3
Area #15:	39	56%	COTO = 17 MYOT = 1	6 in 2	2-4	3	11 1
Area #16:	41	59%	COTO = 3 MYOT = 4				3 4
Area #17:	42	69%	COTO = 4 MYOT = 5 EPFU = 1				4 5 1
Area #18:	43	70%	COTO = 0 MYOT = 167	95 in 26	2-15	3.6	0 72
Area #19:	40	64%	COTO = 7 MYOT = 13 EPFU = 2				7 13 (<i>prob. M. cil.</i>) 2
Area #20:	40	67%	COTO = 4 MYOT = 0				4 0
Area #21:	41	73%	COTO = 1 MYOT = 0				1 0
Area #22:	----	----	COTO = 0 MYOT = 0				0 0
Area #23:	41	78%	COTO = 0 MYOT = 0				0 0
TOTAL for Heavenly Route			COTO = 188 MYOT = 197 EPFU = 3	80 in 8 95 in 26	2-30 2-15	10 3.6	108 102 3

Bat Count Totals By Route

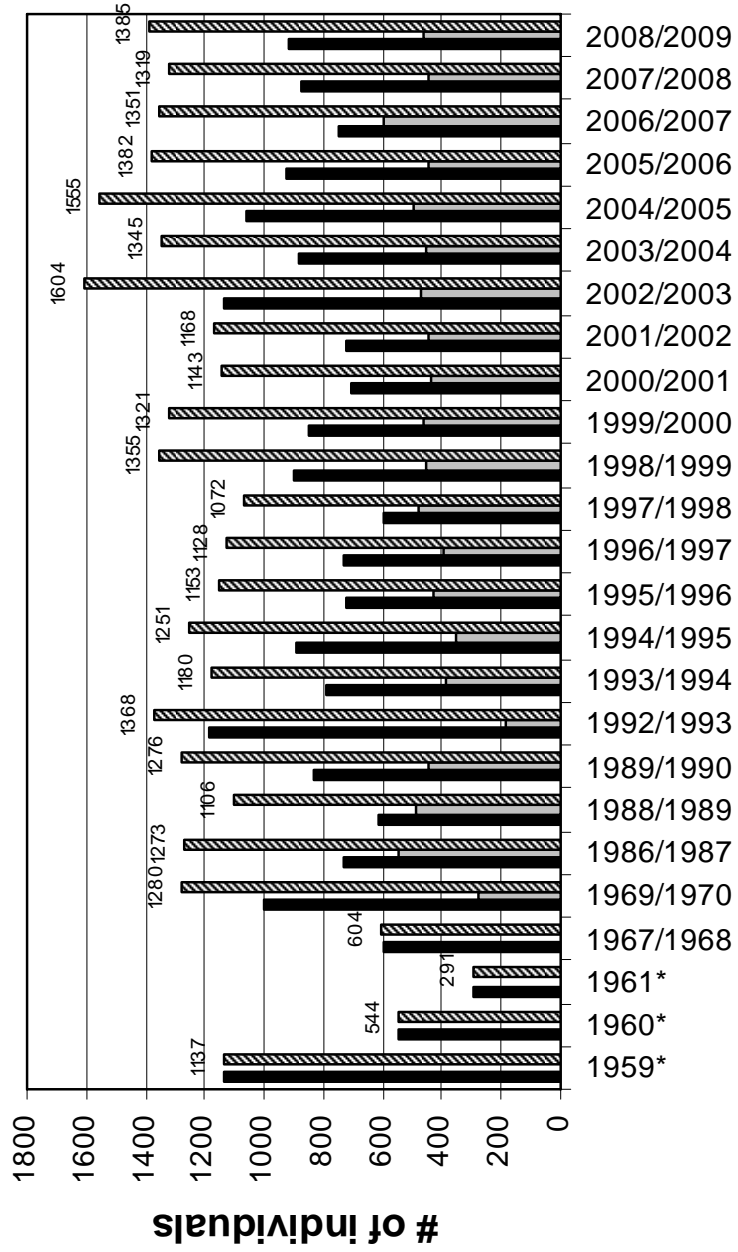


Corynorhinus and Myotis by Route



Jewel Cave Bat Count Results (1959 to 2009)

C. townsendii
 Myotis spp.
 All



*Myotis numbers unknown 1959-1968

Dungeon Room

#6

Dungeon Route

Updated October 2002

6↓ = # of stairs up or down (as you go in)

#5

#4

Chert Room

Rock steps
3↑

#3

Fat Man's
Misc

#1

Catacombs

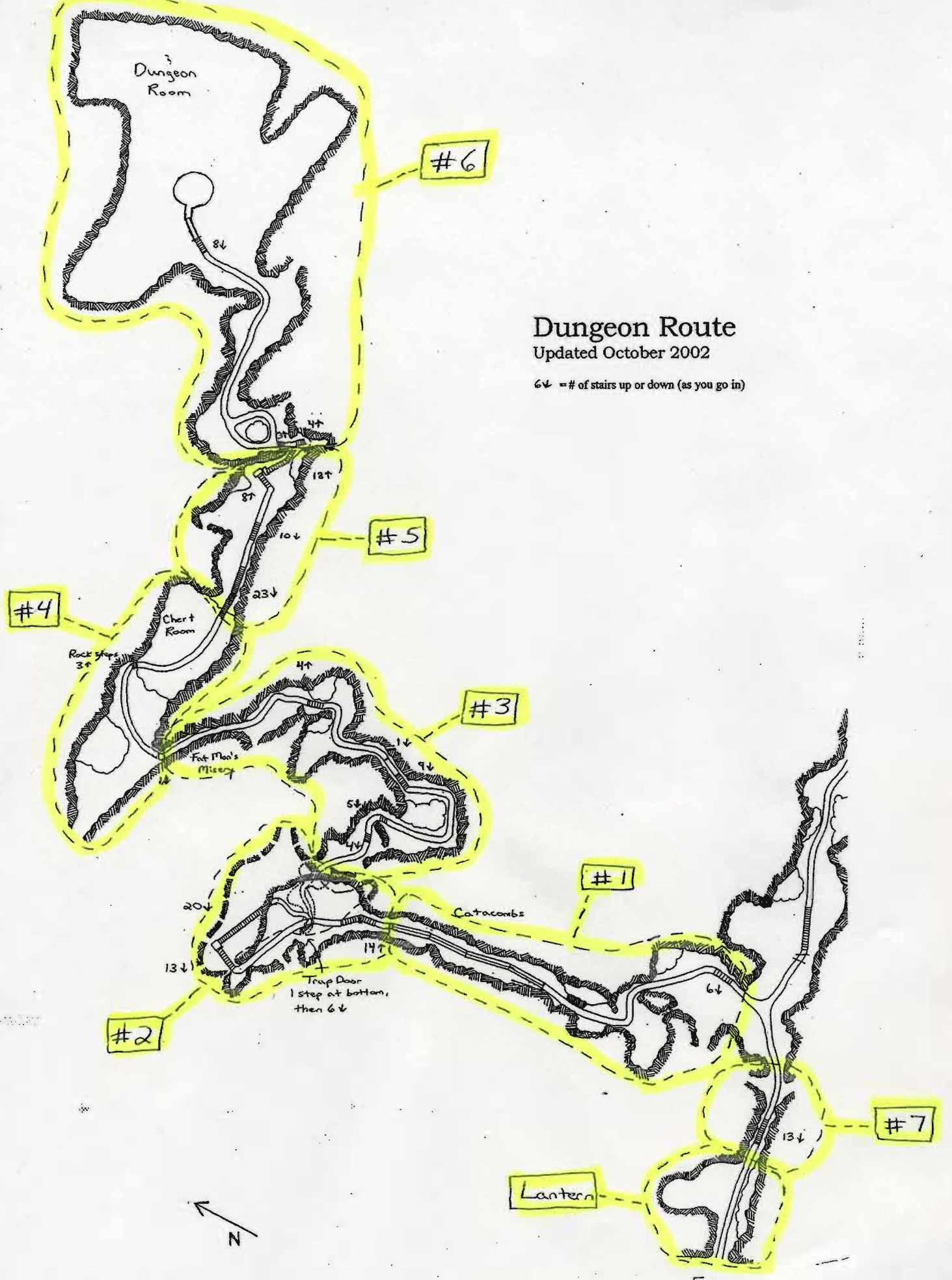
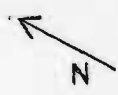
#2

Trap Door
1 step at bottom,
then 6↓

#7

Lantern

Entrance



Heavenly Route

Updated October 2002

↕ = # of stairs up or down (as you go in)

