



"If such a program had existed a century ago, it might have saved the passenger pigeon, Carolina parakeet, and heath hen," Secretary Udall said. "It still may help prevent the extinction of dozens of species that now are threatened."

The program for research on endangered wildlife will be conducted by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. It will complement Bureau efforts to preserve and manage wildlife habitat and to enforce laws that protect wildlife.

Heading the Bureau's endangered wildlife research work is Dr. Ray C. Erickson who has been with the Bureau 20 years. His headquarters will be at Patuxent. The Center itself is directed by Dr. E. H. Dustman.

The endangered species work will be a three-pronged program. One phase will place emphasis on determining methods for rearing endangered creatures in captivity in such a way that they retain their wild characteristics for better survival following their release. C. Eugene Knoder, Research Biologist, will direct this activity.

Under a second part of the program studies of endangered species in their native range will be carried out by a corps of field biologists. Experts already on location and their particular work assignments include:

W. E. Banko, Hawaiian species; Donald Fortenberry, stationed in South Dakota, studying the black-footed ferret, a member of the weasel family once found over a large part of the Great Plains, but now confined to local areas; Fred Sibley, California condor, which is found only in an area northwest of Los Angeles; and Norman Holgersen, Florida Everglade kites and other species in Southeastern States.

A third part of the program will consist of laboratory studies of physiology, nutrition, pathology, and other basic biological factors to support the field research and propagation efforts. Plans are being completed for building a laboratory near the propagation facilities at Patuxent. Holding pens, ponds, and other structures now used at Patuxent are temporary, pending construction of permanent installations later this year.

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