

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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159 MORE ANIMALS LISTED AS ENDANGERED

The Asian elephant, the harpy eagle, and the Appalachian monkeyface pearly mussel are among 159 animals around the globe that have been added to the official United States List of Endangered or Threatened Wildlife by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, bringing to 585 the number of animals now in the endangered classification.

The final rulemaking on this action was published in the June 14, 1976, Federal Register.

Sixty-one mammals, 38 birds, 2 fish, 24 mollusks, 28 reptiles, and 6 amphibians are included, and every continent is represented among the additions. All were rated as being threatened with extinction by the countries signing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and all appear on the Convention's first Appendix--its most seriously jeopardized category.

The present action was proposed by the Service on September 26, 1975, following a request by the Fund for Animals (a private conservation organization) to list all Appendix I animals not already on the U.S. list. At that time 216 species, including a number of foreign plants, were proposed for U.S. endangered status.

Final action on most species not included in the present rulemaking is being deferred, pending thorough analysis of biological data on hand or received in response to the September notice. Two examples are the

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Mexican beaver and the southern sea otter, in both of which the public has indicated much interest. A considerable amount of data has been received on both.

However, the Service has determined that the so-called glacier bear, another of those proposed in September, is not endangered. This bear is only an uncommon color variety of the black bear (Ursus americanus emmonsii) and consequently does not qualify for endangered or threatened status under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The peregrine falcon of Europe and Russia (Falco peregrinus peregrinus) is among the additions. It should be noted that this is not the subspecies native to North America.

The United States, a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, already gives the newly listed species protection of the trade restrictions prescribed by that treaty. The major impact of the present action, therefore, will be on those persons who deal in interstate commerce with these species (or their parts or products) or who wish to import these species for purposes that are not related to scientific research, propagation, or enhancement of the survival of the species--the only purposes allowable under the U.S. legislation. Persons wishing to import endangered wildlife for one of these reasons may apply for a permit to the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

The 24 U.S. species being added, all mollusks, will also come under the habitat and taking provisions of the U.S. Act.

Final action on the Appendix I plant species is awaiting publication of regulations that will implement the Convention and plant provisions of the Act.

The list, published in the Federal Register along with the rulemaking, includes such animals as crocodiles, pythons, giant salamanders, various parrots and macaws, numerous monkeys, spotted cats, and elephants.