

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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## MEXICAN DUCK PROPOSED FOR REMOVAL FROM ENDANGERED LIST

The Mexican duck has been proposed for removal from the list of endangered species by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This proposal was published in the March 31, 1978, Federal Register. Public comments are being sought through May 30, 1978, and should be sent to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

A recent status review of this duck by the States of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas along with the Service shows that the duck is a subspecies of the mallard, that it has cross bred with the mallard throughout its range from northern New Mexico to southern Durango in Mexico, and that the populations of pure Mexican ducks, which today number over 20,000 birds, are not under any threats to their existence as described in the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The Mexican duck was included on the Service's first endangered species list in 1967 and has been classified that way ever since. Intensive studies of the duck were begun 3 years ago in cooperation with the Mexican government and the States where the duck occurs.

This action, if made final, would remove the Mexican duck from the protection of the Endangered Species Act; however, the species would still be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

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