

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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A NEW WILDLIFE PORTRAIT SERIES EXHIBITS PHOTOS TAKEN BY THE WILDLIFERS, THEMSELVES

A striking arctic loon on its nest in a tundra lake, a young buck deer sailing over a barbed wire fence, and what may be the greenest treefrog ever recorded in living color are among the scenes depicted in a new series of photographic wildlife portraits produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 16 by 20-inch full color posters of nine North American and one Central American species include rare shots of bears, birds, snakes, butterflies and other wildlife. All were taken by Fish and Wildlife Service employees whose day-to-day responsibilities often place them in remote areas virtually inaccessible to other photographers.

There are, for instance, a kestrel perched on an old post with its prey in its talons, mute swans in quiet water at sunrise, two male rattlesnakes gracefully entangled in a combat dance, and a group of puffins looking like clowns with their absurd beaks and pantomimic faces.

At first glance, the two Alaska brown bears contentedly sunning themselves on a gentle slope appear deceptively innocuous. Both have fluffy, tawny coats, muffed ears, and black-button eyes. But the bone-crushing teeth and enormous claws of North America's largest and fiercest predator are also there.

The monarch butterflies are lined up on a limb near a cluster of overripe chokecherries, so they are probably on their famous fall migration to the southland. Their orange, yellow, and black wings look like lighted church windows.

(over)

A snowy-white Rocky Mountain goat moves up a granite ledge against a background of wild flowers. His long, bleak face is emphasized by a pious beard. His gait has the stiff dignity of an aging deacon.

Enclosed with the series are brief information sketches on each of the animals. Wildlife Portrait Series Number 5 is for sale for \$6.00 by:

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"Year of the Coast"