

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

United States-Mexico Elk Program Successfully Concluded. The recent shipment of 17 cow elk from Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge to a ranch in Coahuila, Mexico, has concluded a successful cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, and Mexico's national wildlife agency.

The program began in 1977 with the shipment of six bulls and 20 cows from the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma to a thousand-acre pasture on a vast ranch in the Sierra Burro mountains. By last year, the herd increased to 73 animals. The new cows bring the number to 90, hastening the day when the Mexicans can start releasing limited numbers of elk onto the open range. Mexico's elk were decimated decades ago by overhunting and destruction of habitat.

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Petition Seeks Protection for Bay Checkerspot Butterfly. Three members of Stanford University's Department of Biology have petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Bay checkerspot butterfly as an endangered or threatened species.

Bruce A. Wilcox, Dennis D. Murphy, and Paul R. Ehrlick submitted the petition, describing the orange, brown, white, medium-sized butterfly as existing nowhere but in two remaining colonies in the San Francisco Bay region. One colony is north of Redwood City along Interstate 280; the other is on Stanford's own natural history study area, Jasper Ridge Preserve.

Fourteen other colonies of the Bay checkerspot butterfly have become extinct due to loss of their habitat.

The Service accepted the petition in a notice in the February 13, 1981, Federal Register. Further information and comment should be submitted by May 13, 1981. A decision will be made after that time on whether the data meet the criteria to propose the butterfly for entry on the U.S. List of Endangered Species.

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New Publication Covers Wide Variety of Fish and Wildlife Research. A recent 200-page publication by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service includes more than 300 short, photo-illustrated articles on widely divergent research such as the redwing blackbird decline in the Dakotas, methods of immunizing trout against disease, and training Labrador retrievers to locate endangered species.

Edited by Thomas G. Scott and Paul H. Eschmeyer, Fisheries and Wildlife Research 1979, Stock no. 024-010-000584-0, is for sale for \$6.50 each from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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Bibliography on Bird Mortality at Man-made Structures is Available. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published an updated bibliography of bird mortality caused by collisions with buildings, TV towers and other such unnatural obstacles. The publication, Avian Mortality at Man-made Structures: An Annotated Bibliography (Revised), FWS/OBS/54, lists more than 1042 entries. Single copies of the bibliography may be obtained from the Information Transfer Specialist, National Power Plant Team, 200 East Liberty, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107.

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Comprehensive North American Fish Atlas Produced by Interior Agency and North Carolina State Museum of Natural History. The first comprehensive account of all freshwater fishes found in the United States and Canada, featuring 777 species, has been published in the Atlas of North American Freshwater Fishes, a cooperative project of the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the North Carolina State Museum of Natural History.

The 854-page Atlas provides illustrations, distribution maps, and basic biological information on all known freshwater fishes north of Mexico, as well as most species found in brackish and coastal waters. Specific information includes each species' habitat, abundance, size, distribution, type locality, systematics, biology, and major references. The publication includes 38 exotic fishes that are now reproducing in North America, a growing concern of the Service's fishery biologists.

Persons interested in obtaining a copy should send a check payable to the Museum of Extension fund for \$23 (\$20 for purchase price and \$3 postage and handling charges) to: Fish Atlas, North Carolina State Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611. North Carolina residents should add 4 percent sales tax to the purchase price.

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