

OUR ENVIRONMENT

Endangered Status Proposed for Illinois Mud Turtle

Listing the Illinois mud turtle (*Kinosternon flavescens sponneri*) as an endangered species and identifying its critical habitat was proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the July 7, 1978, *Federal Register*. Threats to the turtle's survival include intense habitat alteration and collecting by amateur turtle enthusiasts. There are at least three populations of the species in Illinois and Iowa.

Endangered means that a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Listing the turtle as endangered and identifying its critical habitat would give it the protection of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The act prohibits any federal agency from authorizing, funding, or taking any action that would threaten the continued existence or adversely affect the critical habitat of a listed species. Critical habitat designation, however, does not affect actions by private landowners, states, or local governments.

Thirty "Endangered Species" Candidates Not in Trouble After All

Thirty native plants and animals which have been under review as candidates for the endangered or threatened species lists are being removed from further consideration, primarily because evidence received from the public indicates they are more common than previously thought. The species and subspecies occur throughout the nation and were originally placed under review at various times over the last four years. They include 3 plants, 2 freshwater sponges, 3 snails, 18 butterflies, a turtle, a salamander, and 2 snakes.

During the last four years, the Fish and Wildlife Service has published a number of notices of review indicating that there were sufficient data then available to warrant a review of various animals and plants to determine whether they should be listed. During this period, two plants were proposed as endangered which are no longer considered as candidates for listing. These public notices requested comments and data from knowledgeable persons about the biological

status and range of these species. On the basis of data submitted from individuals, universities, states, and organizations, these species have been found not to warrant further consideration as candidates for listing.

The 30 species removed from the list are the following: **plants:** *bird's eye primrose* (north U.S. and Canada), *Alaskan rein orchid* (AK), *unnamed species of bladderpod* (NM, TX); **freshwater sponges:** *muscular sponge* (MI), *spongy sponge* (SC); **snails:** *dented peninsula snail* (CA), *Nicklin's peninsula snail* (CA), *Tryon's snail* (CA); **butterflies:** *Catalina orange-tip* (CA), *Andrews marble* (CA), *Dina's yellow* (FL), *Mitchell's satyr* (MI, IN, NJ), *Mead's satyr* (CO), *chryxus arctic* (WA), *mountain silverspot* (AZ, NM), *blue silverspot* (AZ), *unsilvered fritillary* (CA), *Clemence's fritillary* (CA), *Tehachapi mountain silverspot* (CA), *minute checkerspot* (TX), *Doudoroff's elfin* (CA), *Wind's elfin* (CA), *bog elfin* (ME, NH), *Hessel's hairstreak* (CT, DE, MD, NJ, NY, NC, VA); *Hawaiian hairstreak* (HI), *clouded tailed copper* (CA); **turtles:** *red-bellied turtle* (NC, VA, MD, DE, NJ); **amphibians:** *Siskiyou mountain salamander* (CA, OR); **reptiles:** *desert kingsnake* (AZ, NM, TX, OK), *gray-banded kingsnake* (TX).

Ten Moths and Butterflies Proposed for Endangered or Threatened Status

Two species of moths and eight species of butterflies whose habitats have been modified by housing developments, urbanization, land clearing, agriculture, grazing, or the absence of fires have been proposed for endangered or threatened status by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposal, published in the July 3, 1978 *Federal Register*, lists three species as endangered and seven as threatened. It also proposes critical habitat for eight of the species.

The species are all dependent upon highly specific kinds of habitat for their survival. And man is changing those habitats to meet his needs. For example, several species of butterflies depend upon lupine plants to provide seeds for their food. The seeds germinate after fires. When natural fires are prevented or quickly extinguished lupines are crowded out by brush.

Another example: the Dakota skipper butterfly is found in virgin prairieland. This

species had originally occurred from southern Manitoba south through North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois. Populations have been eliminated from Manitoba and Illinois, and the butterfly's occurrence in the remainder of its range is reduced. Conversion of virgin prairie to alternate human-related land uses is proceeding rapidly and includes agriculture, urbanization, quarry operations, highway construction, weed control operations, and inundation from dam construction.

The blue-black silverspot butterfly originally occurred in the Rio Grande Valley in southern Conejos County, Colorado, southward into New Mexico. The only known surviving colony is now reported near Tsaille Creek, Apache County, Arizona. Man's growing need for water is altering the habitat need for this species' continued existence. Human-related activities that have affected this species are farming and irrigation, construction of roads, haying, and grazing.

The species included in this proposal and the states in which they occur are:

- **San Francisco tree lupine moth**—(threatened, critical habitat proposed) California.
- **Kern primrose sphinx moth**—(threatened) California.
- **Dakota skipper butterfly**—(threatened, critical habitat proposed) Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.
- **Pawnee montane skipper butterfly**—(endangered, critical habitat proposed) Colorado.
- **Callippe silverspot butterfly**—(endangered, critical habitat proposed) California.
- **Great Basin silverspot butterfly**—(threatened, critical habitat proposed) Colorado and Utah.
- **Blue-black silverspot butterfly**—(threatened, critical habitat proposed) Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico.
- **Oregon silverspot butterfly**—(threatened, critical habitat proposed) Oregon.
- **Karner blue butterfly**—(threatened, critical habitat proposed) Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.
- **Palos Verdes blue butterfly**—(endangered) California.



1978. "Bald Eagle Roosting Site Acquired by Condemnation." *Field Museum of Natural History bulletin* 49(9), 5-5.

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