



Lange's metalmark (*Apodemia mormo langei*). Photo courtesy L. Orsak.

population directly and through destruction of the buckwheat plant.

The two endangered Antioch Dunes plants are the Contra Costa wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum* var. *angustatum*) and the Antioch Dunes evening primrose (*Oenothera deltoides howellii*). Both were placed on the Endangered Species List in 1978. Approximately 1,500 plants of the cream-colored primrose survive. The condition of the yellow-blossomed wallflower, with only about 250 individuals left, is even more precarious. Both plants received publicity in 1979 when they were portrayed on the "endangered flora" U.S. commemorative postage stamp series.

These endangered organisms can survive only if the undeveloped dune remnants are preserved, say conservationists. The Fish and Wildlife Service has secured options to purchase the two remaining parcels, which total 56 acres. Purchase price is approximately \$2.2 million. The area is prime industrial land, accounting for the high purchase price. Once obtained, the remnants would become a national wildlife refuge. Conservationists point out that attempts could then be made to increase populations of the three species so they could eventually be removed from the Endangered Species List.

Acquisition of the Antioch Dunes cannot proceed, however, without Congressional approval. Monies must be appropriated from the U.S. Land and Water Conservation Fund. In view of the continuing decline of both butterfly and wallflower populations, conservationists are anxious to see that the bill to appropriate funds is not held up in Congress and is passed prior to the expiration of the purchase options. If the purchase is not approved, claim conservationists, the dune parcels will almost certainly be developed or severely altered, resulting in extinction for the endangered species.

The Lange's metalmark is only one of 18 eight protected United States endangered

or threatened butterflies. Six of these inhabit California, a region of increasing human population and diverse habitat. All these butterflies generally inhabit unique and diminishing habitats which are home for other very rare species.

One such butterfly, the El Segundo blue (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*), is a Los Angeles resident. It survives at only two locations. One is a 2-acre parcel owned and protected by Standard Oil of California. The species flies in greater abundance at the second site, part of the Los Angeles International Airport.

Motors Banned in Grand Canyon

After 10 years of public involvement and three of research, the National Park Service (NPS) has issued its management plan for the Grand Canyon section of the Colorado River. The plan, which begins a five-year phase-out of motorized craft this year, has brought strong opposition from concessionaires and applause from conservation groups. NPS Director William Whalen stated that a trip down the whitewater section through the Canyon should be "the epitome of a wilderness experience on a river in America." The plan hopes to protect the wilderness by spreading out use over a longer running season, instituting environmental safeguards (limiting boatload size, carrying out waste), and increasing the number of private permits (as opposed to commercial).

The Boating Industry Association, a trade association of marine manufacturers, charges that NPS is "limiting the river whitewater experience to those with the time, money, and endurance to take a float trip," adding that the running time will double and cost increase 60-70 percent on the 235-mile trip. However, the new plan will permit trips from one to 20 days' duration.

Ice Conditioners?

Researchers at the University of Delaware are studying a new version of an old way to keep cool. Old way: put a block of ice in front of a fan to cool the air. New way: freeze a special salt water gel at night when energy rates and demand are lower, then use it during the day for cooling. Because the chemical involved freezes at approximately 55 degrees F., a home central air conditioning system can be used to freeze it, then to fan air across the frozen gel. Wide use of such "storage-assisted air conditioning systems" could reduce utility companies' oil consumption and investment in generators to meet peak loads. The estimated initial cost of \$680 could save about \$230 a year on electricity bills. Marketing is three years away, say researchers.

Wildlife Imports Increase

U.S. imports of wildlife items skyrocketed more than 9,000 percent between 1972 and 1977, reports TRAFFIC (Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce), the trade monitor for World Wildlife Fund-US. Game trophy imports rose 589 percent; skin and hides, 26 percent; live animals, 2 percent; and plants 446 percent, to total 164.6 million items in 1977.

Although the U.S. was the first of 51 countries to ratify the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the federal government is having a difficult time monitoring trade increases at the nation's 8 wildlife and 14 plant ports of entry. For example, the Miami airport only has one U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service inspector at any one time to check hundreds of incoming shipments. TRAFFIC hopes to serve as a privately-operated data source to support and improve government efforts to regulate the boom. Initial efforts will focus on species, such as sea turtles, macaws, cacti, orchids, elephants (ivory), and crocodilians (leather), hardest hit by the international trade.

Environmental Protection Agency Announces "Seek and Find" Hazardous Waste Hot Line

The Midwest Regional Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced a new program, "Seek and Find," to uncover improperly managed hazardous waste disposal sites throughout Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. By calling the toll-free Hazardous Waste Hotline, citizens can report known or suspected sites where hazardous waste material has been improperly disposed of or stored.

"Hazardous waste generation in the United States has increased dramatically since the end of World War II," said John McGuire, U.S. EPA regional administrator, "but the impacts of improperly managed hazardous wastes have only recently been recognized by the public as a critical issue. Until all such waste sites are located, potential threats to our health and the environment may sit unattended in fields and warehouses like ticking time bombs. The potential danger is too great to ignore."

The "Seek and Find" program will enable citizens to report suspected disposal sites in their community via the Hazardous Waste Hotline, a toll-free number. Illinois residents may call 800/972-3170, and residents outside Illinois may call 800/621-3191, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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