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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Advance Release to the PM's OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1946

A total of 1,233 permits for the importation of 24,305 live wild birds and 16,612 animals was issued during the fiscal year 1945 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, according to Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Service director.

In the preceding year 993 permits were issued for the importation of 17,308 birds and 11,080 animals.

The 1945 increase was due in part to the many pets and mascots brought back to this country by men returning from military service overseas.

Although monkeys constitute a large part of soldier and sailor importations, the majority of the 8,000 monkeys imported in 1945 were used for scientific purposes, principally in connection with the study of infantile paralysis. Other GI favorites are marmosets, agoutis, coatimundis, ant eaters, kinkajous, and honey bears.

Permits are required under the Lacy Act of May 25, 1900, which provides for regulating the entry of foreign wild mammals and birds into this country to prohibit the importation of those species which may be injurious to agriculture or horticulture. No wild bird or animal has entered and obtained a foothold in this country since the passage of this act, according to Dr. Gabrielson. The English sparrow and the English starling were introduced previously, in 1850 and 1890, respectively.

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