

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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TWENTY-FIVE FOREIGN ANIMALS PROPOSED FOR ENDANGERED LIST;
SIXTY-FIVE OTHERS BEING REVIEWED FOR POSSIBLE "DE-LISTING"

Twenty-five species of animals from Latin America, Africa, Europe, and Asia have been proposed for listing by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered species.

At the same time, 65 other animals currently on the endangered list, all native to foreign countries, are being reviewed by the Service for possible removal from the list.

Notices of both actions were published in the April 19, 1978, edition of the Federal Register. Public comments are invited on both actions and should be addressed to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Comments on the review of animals already listed are due by June 18; on those proposed for new listing, by July 18.

There are 24 mammals and one bird included in the new listing action. They include gazelles from the Middle East which have been overhunted for food, and deer from Europe and Eurasia. Other mammals such as rabbits, cats, foxes, civets, hartebeest, and sika are included. The bird proposed for listing is the Amazon rednecked parrot.

The impetus for the listing action came from private researchers who compiled scientific data on these species to update the international red book on endangered animals.

An environmental assessment of this proposal has been prepared and is on file with the Service's Office of Endangered Species, 1612 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., for examination during normal duty hours.

The 65 animals considered for "de-listing" were listed as endangered in 1976 because all appeared to be threatened with extinction from unregulated foreign trade in the animals, their parts, or products made from them.

Since that time, however, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora has become operational. It has been ratified by 38 countries and is proving to be an effective regulator of commerce.

The Service called for this review to determine if any other factors can be found to be threatening these species. The Service is seeking the official views of all countries in which these animals occur as well as from the public.