



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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NEWS FROM THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Wetlands Loss Report Now Available

Nearly two centuries of wetlands loss is chronicled in the pages of a new report to Congress, now available to the public through the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The report, "Wetlands Losses in the United States--1780's to 1980's," estimates that 117 million acres of wetlands, or approximately 53 percent of the country's original total wetland acreage, have been lost in the lower 48 states since colonial times.

Estimates contained in the report are based on historical agricultural and soil records. Other findings in the report include figures indicating 22 of the 50 states have lost at least half of their wetlands, mostly due to conversion to agriculture. In addition, 10 states have lost more than 70 percent of their original wetlands.

To obtain a copy of the report, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Publications Unit, 1849 C Street NW., Mailstop 130 ARLSQ, Washington, DC 20240.

U.S.-Soviet Accord on Conservation Available

The highlights of a precedent setting United States-Union of Soviet Socialist Republics wildlife and environment conference held in June 1990 have just been published, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

The publication, "US-USSR Conference on Environmental Conservation for the 1990's," contains the text of a joint resolution arrived at by 40 Soviet and 40 American scientists who

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met June 18-22 at Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia to discuss bilateral and global conservation priorities.

"The conferees have given us a valuable blueprint," said Service Director John Turner. "It points the way to cooperation in natural resource research and management for the balance of the 90's."

The conference featured 18 panel sessions, each examining different aspects of global conservation concerns; and produced more than 20 specific recommendations for policy makers in both nations.

Copies of the document are available free of charge by contacting:

"US-USSR Conference"
c/o Office of International Affairs
Room 130 Arlington Square
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Service Offers New Publications

Hints for backyard bird watchers and a colorful poster are among the new publications recently produced by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Now available is "Raptors--Hunters on the Wing," a full-color poster highlighting birds of prey, including eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls.

"Homes for Birds" and "Backyard Bird Feeding" will help bird enthusiasts attract their favorite species to nest boxes and feeding stations. Included in these booklets are instructions and dimensions for bird house construction, information on bird feeders and feed, and tips for placement.

"Why Save Endangered Species?" is a full-color brochure explaining the importance of management programs for endangered and threatened plants and animals.

"Join Us in a Partnership for Wetlands" describes the progress of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a cooperative effort to restore the continent's waterfowl populations. Details of nine "joint ventures," cooperative programs in the United States and Canada, are featured in this full-color brochure.

Those interested in the Chesapeake Bay may want to obtain copies of two new publications outlining resources of the bay. "Patapsco River Fish Passage and Restoration Plan," produced in cooperation with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, describes the joint effort to restore the river's fishery through enhancement of fish passage facilities and reintroduction of selected species.

A new guide to help naturalists, biologists, and students identify the vegetation found in Chesapeake Bay is also available. "Field Guide to the Submerged Aquatic Vegetation of Chesapeake Bay" features illustrations and color photographs to make identification easy. The guide is a joint effort of the Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Both the field guide and the Patapsco River plan are available free in single copies from the Service's Chesapeake Bay Estuary Program, 180 Admiral Cochrane Drive, Suite 535, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401.

Copies of "Homes for Birds" and "Backyard Bird Feeding" are available free from the Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colorado, 81009. The raptor poster is available for \$3.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20401.

Free copies of "Join Us in a Partnership for Wetlands" and "Why Save Endangered Species?" may be obtained from the Service's Publications Unit, 1849 C St., NW., Mail Stop 130 ARLSQ, Washington, DC 20240.