

## **New Swift Fox Book Available**

The swift fox is a small prairie fox that formerly ranged from western Canada south through much of the shortgrass prairie habitat of the western United States. The swift fox declined since settlement for a variety of reasons, and in 1995, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated the swift fox as a federal candidate species for potential listing under the Endangered Species Act. This action generated interest among many agencies, tribes, and private organizations in studying and assisting in management of this native fox, and many of these interests participated in a symposium held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1998.

Information from the symposium was supplemented with additional papers, culminating in a new book called "The Swift Fox – Ecology and Conservation of Swift Foxes in a Changing World." The book has five sections covering general conservation issues; distribution and population shifts; censusing and techniques; population ecology; and taxonomy, physiology, and disease-related issues. The book, published by the Canadian Plains Research Center at the University of Regina, sells for \$34.95 per copy plus postage and handling. To order, visit the following web-site: <http://www.cprc.ca/> and view the Publications Catalog.

Many of the new book's chapters were contributed by members of the Swift Fox Conservation Team, an international multiagency team formed in 1994 by the state wildlife agencies within the historical range of the swift fox. The team meets annually to share new information and ongoing monitoring results in a coordinated effort to ensure long-term viability of the swift fox. The team also publishes annual reports on its activities and related programs. Cooperative monitoring and research efforts helped justify the removal of the swift fox from the federal candidate list in 2001.

The swift fox is a state threatened species in South Dakota, and intentional take is prohibited. Current South Dakota swift fox activities in the news include two reintroduction projects - one on the Bad River Ranches in central South Dakota and a second on Badlands National Park. Additional information about the Swift Fox Conservation Team and related activities is available at the following web-site:  
[http://southdakotafielddoffice.fws.gov/swift\\_fox\\_main.htm](http://southdakotafielddoffice.fws.gov/swift_fox_main.htm).