

# Endangered species program started

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Game Commission and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have signed a cooperative agreement to launch an endangered species program in the commonwealth.

Under the agreement, the federal government will provide two dollars for each dollar spent by the Game Commission during the next

five years to determine the status of and improve conditions for threatened or endangered species in Pennsylvania.

Species currently listed by the federal government as being "endangered" which are or were resident to Pennsylvania are bald eagles, peregrine falcons, Indiana bats, Kirtland's warblers, and Delmarva fox squirrels.

Southeastern Pennsylvania was once part of the Delmarva fox squirrel's range, which is now restricted to Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot and Dorchester Counties in Maryland.

The agreement is designed to foster better habitat management and protection for the species covered by the program.

Specifically, funds will be used to determine the status of threatened or endangered species of wildlife in the state, for protection of these species through law enforcement, acquisition of habitat critical to the threatened or endangered species, and intensive in-service training for Game Commission law enforcement personnel on the specialized endangered species work.

Signing of the agreement concludes three years of negotiation between the two agencies. About twenty other states have already executed agreements with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Congress, in fashioning the

1973 Endangered Species Act, incorporated cooperative agreements in order to allow qualifying states to retain and strengthen their traditional wildlife management roles.

This was done out of recognition that the states want to assist in the restoration of their own endangered species and are in many cases more familiar with the conservation needs and biological status of their resident wildlife — and those species which may be headed for trouble — than the federal government.

The states and territories have well over 5,000 con-

servation officers and many wildlife biologists, while the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has only 180 law enforcement officers in the field and only a few hundred field biologists. Thus, the agreements greatly increase the available manpower to conserve endangered species.

Included under conservation is authority to conduct research, census taking, law enforcement, protection, habitat acquisition and maintenance, species propagation, live trapping, transplantation and limited regulated taking.



Sarah Danehower of Lansdale (center) receives congratulations from guest "leprechaun" Gerry McMahon of Norristown, for her 27 years service as a 4-H Leader with the Lansdale Lassies 4-H Club. Debbie Rohr (right) of Hatfield was welcomed as a first year leader with the Montgomery County 4-H Livestock Club at an informal leader recognition night held recently in Lansdale.



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