

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association is seeking an Executive Director in order to expand its programs in conservation and raptor biology. Some management experience is preferred. For further information, send your curriculum vitae to Dr. Frank B. Gill, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has recently established a Branch of Forensic Science to provide technical and scientific support to the Service's Law Enforcement Division.

The USFWS's Division of Law Enforcement is assigned the responsibility of investigating the illegal possession, killing, processing, importing and exporting of birds, fish, reptiles, and mammals relating to interstate and foreign commerce, treaty enforcement, and national property. Much of this work deals with animals that appear on the Endangered Species List. To support this task, the Forensic Science Branch will direct its resources toward the identification of animals, animal parts (skins, blood, hair, bones, feathers, etc.), and animal products.

Inasmuch as there are in excess of 430 mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles on the Endangered Species List alone (which is, unfortunately continuing to grow), it would be clearly impossible (or at least unreasonably expensive) to staff a lab with the forensic/biological zoological experts necessary to identify parts and products from all of the animals which might be involved in a case. Instead, we hope to locate and list experts who are capable and willing to examine such evidence on a mutual aid, fee, or contractual basis. The examinations, of course, may necessitate testimony in a court of law.

In addition, we will try to develop, or continue to encourage, interest by universities and research centers in conducting research on current wildlife identification problems—particularly those involving endangered species animals, animal parts, and products.

If any members of your organization have any questions, suggestions or information regarding our program, are interested themselves, or know of someone who would be interested and qualified in working wildlife identification problems, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the address listed below. A survey form will be mailed immediately to requesting individuals, data from which will be used to compile a directory of available scientific expertise in wildlife identification.

Ken Goddard, Chief
Branch of Forensic Science
Division of Law Enforcement
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 19183
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 343-9242