

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[50 CFR Part 17]

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE

Proposed Threatened Status for Two Species of Butterflies

Background. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has evidence that the following species of insects are threatened species as defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC 1531-43; 87 Stat. 884): Schaus Swallowtail (*Papilio aristodemus ponceanus*); and the United States population of the Bahama Swallowtail (*Papilio andraemon bonhoteti*).

Section 4(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 states that the Secretary of the Interior may determine a species to be an endangered species, or a threatened species, because of any of five factors. These factors, and their application to the Schaus Swallowtail and the Bahama Swallowtail, are as follows:

1. *The present or threatened destruction, modification or curtailment of its habitat or range.*—*Schaus Swallowtail.* The original range of this butterfly in the United States was from South Miami south through the offshore islands and larger keys to Lower Matecumbe Key, including Elliot Key, Sands Key, Key Largo, Lower Matecumbe Key, Old Rhodes Key, Totten Key, and possibly Lignum Vitae and Adams Keys. The occurrence of the butterfly is dependent on the native Torchwood (*Amyris elemifera*), its caterpillar food plant.

The South Miami population has been extinct for many years, and the Key Largo population is now strongly reduced due to commercial development there.

Bahama Swallowtail. This butterfly occurs in the Bahama Islands and in extreme South Florida. In Florida it may have occurred in the South Miami area where it is now extinct. In 1972 a colony of the butterfly was discovered on Elliot Key within the confines of Biscayne National Monument. Its required habitat is similar to that of the Schaus Swallowtail except that its caterpillar food plant is Key Lime (*Citrus aurantiifolia*) and Sour Orange (*Citrus aurantium*).

2. *Overutilization for commercial sporting, scientific, or educational purposes.*—*Schaus Swallowtail.* There are reports that single specimens of this butterfly have been sold to amateur butterfly collectors for as much as \$150. There are also reports that some zealous collectors have thoroughly searched its food plant for caterpillars so that specimens might be procured. Intensive searching of food plants for caterpillars is believed to be the most serious threat to all populations on keys in Biscayne National Monument. A proposed ferry service to these islands would allow amateur collectors ready access to these populations. Taking of the adult butterflies, however, is not considered as serious a threat, and no exportation to foreign countries is known.

Bahama Swallowtail. These butterflies are highly desired by collectors and their commercial value is considerable.

3. *Disease or predation.*—*Schaus Swallowtail.* Not applicable. *Bahama Swallowtail.* Not applicable.

4. *The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms.*—*Schaus Swallowtail.* Although this species is Federally protected within Biscayne National Monument, it is not protected in other portions of its range.

Bahama Swallowtail. Not applicable. (The species occurs only in Biscayne National Monument, where it is federally protected.)

5. *Other natural or man-made factors affecting its continued existence.*—*Schaus Swallowtail.* In the past, hurricanes have been reported, at least temporarily, to have eliminated some populations of this species.

The areas from which the butterfly was eliminated were subsequently recolonized from adjoining populations. The smaller the range of this species becomes, however, the greater the risk that a single natural event (hurricane or freeze) could cause the species to become extinct.

Bahama Swallowtail. Although there are no previous reports of this species having been affected detrimentally by hurricanes, the potential does exist. The small range of the species makes it highly vulnerable to natural calamity.

These species are proposed as "Threatened" species rather than as "Endangered" species because major portions of their range are within Biscayne National Monument where they are protected by Federal law.

All prohibitions of section 9(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 shall apply, with the exception of the following permitted act:

(1) The taking of adult Schaus Swallowtail (*Papilio aristodemus ponceanus*) on Key Largo for non-commercial purposes in compliance with State laws and regulations.

Supporting data for the above statements and proposals are on file with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. The Governor of the State of Florida has been notified with respect to this proposed rulemaking and requested to submit comments and recommendations. All interested persons are invited to submit written comments, suggestions, objections, and factual information concerning this proposal to the "Director (FWS/LE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Post Office Box 19183, Washington, D.C. 20036." All comments received on or before July 21, 1975, will be considered.

Dated: April 17, 1975.

LYNN A. GREENWALT,
Director,
Fish and Wildlife Service.

Accordingly, it is hereby proposed to amend Part 17, Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

Amend § 17.32 by adding the following:

§ 17.32 Threatened wildlife list.

Common name	Scientific name	Range	Portion of range over which threatened
(a) Mammals.....
(b) Birds.....
(c) Insects.....
(1) Schaus.....	<i>Papilio aristodemus ponceanus</i>	Biscayne National Monument, Dade County, Key Largo, Lower Matecumbe Key, Monroe County, Florida.	Entire range.
(2) Bahama.....	<i>Papilio andraemon bonhoteti</i>	Bahama Islands and Biscayne National Monument, Dade County, Florida.	Do.