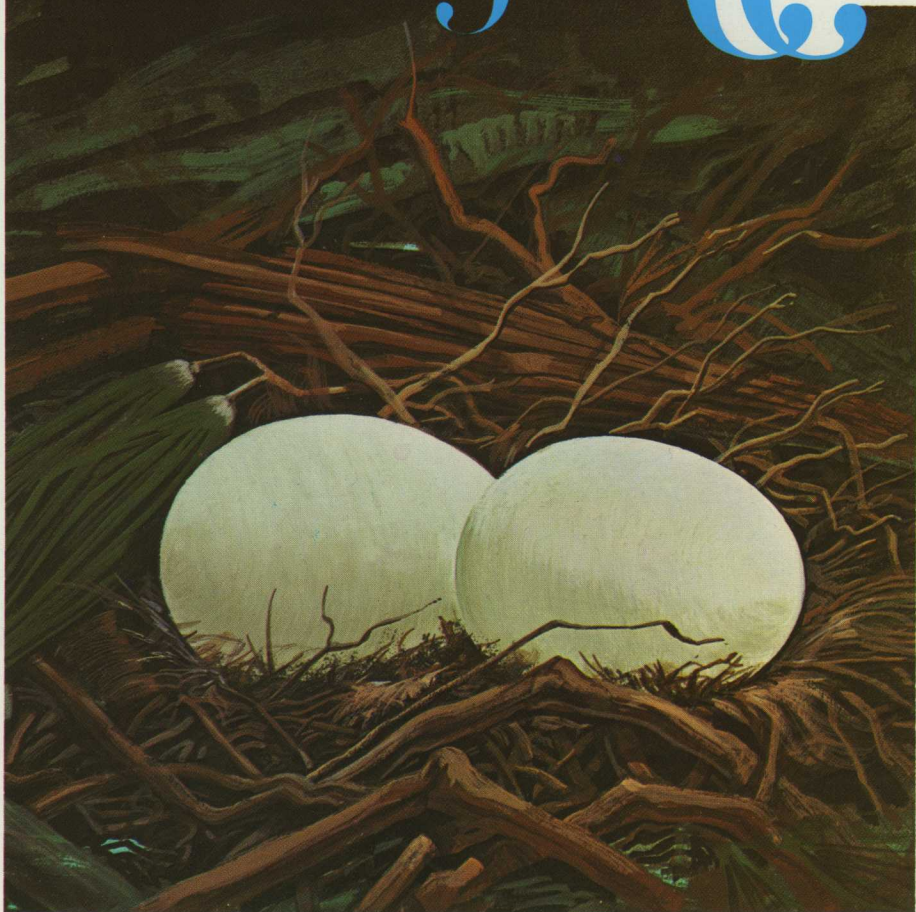


“...the fairest,
one
of all.”



Wildlife management — particularly the protection of rare and endangered species — is easy to overlook throughout much of the Eastern United States. For man is the most visible image across this sprawling, urban landscape. Eight of the Nation's largest cities are located here; and over half the Nation's population resides along a practically unbroken chain of super-cities, which extends from Minneapolis to Boston.

This axis of urban-industrial development is centered within the 20-State Eastern Region of the U. S. Forest Service, the boundaries of which are defined by the States of Minnesota, Missouri, Maryland, and Maine. And, it is here, in remote corners beyond the city limits, that such wildlife species as the eastern timber wolf and the Kirtland's warbler are struggling in the twilight of survival. In fact, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has classified nine species in this part of the country which are either rare or endangered; and Forest Service biologists have classified another 28 as unique to the 17 National Forests in the Region.

By definition, an endangered species is one for which survival prospects are grave

in spite of accelerated management programs. That is, existing numbers have diminished to the point where rates of mortality may exceed a population's reproductive capacity. The eastern timber wolf, for example, which once ranged as extensively as the white-tailed deer, has been reduced to about 700 individuals and occupies no more than a remnant of its former wilderness habitat—that being on the Superior National Forest in Minnesota and Isle Royale adjacent to Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The greater sandhill crane is another species which once ranged extensively across the northern United States. Less severely threatened than the eastern timber wolf, this species is classified as rare. In this Region of the Forest Service, at least 50 nesting sites have been identified and scheduled for special management on the Hiawatha National Forest in Michigan.

The remaining classification—unique—has been designated by Forest Service biologists to describe those species for which local protection may be required or for which insufficient information is available to make a determination. The northern bald eagle of the Lake States and the Cheat Mountain salamander of West Virginia are examples of this classification.

There are many causes for the decline of

