

computer corner

The Threatened, Endangered, and Exotic (TEX) module on COMMON described in the *Park Science* Computer Corner, Fall 1986 issue, will include all federally classified species, plus all important exotic (alien) species for which active park management programs exist. This data base was designed specifically for exchange of basic TEX species information between regional offices and parks on a Servicewide basis.

At a recent meeting in Washington, organized by Nick Chura of the NPS Washington office (WASO) and Trish Patterson of the Southeast Regional office, it was decided that parks could benefit from development of a data base (in dBASE III) that individual parks could run on microcomputers. Information on federal- and state-listed or other species of concern could be entered and summarized and parks could expand the database to accommodate park-specific data elements and TEX monitoring information.

Information and Data Systems (WASO) agreed to develop and distribute the data base, which will include all data elements currently in the TEX module of COMMON and additional elements such as state status, species location information, and habitat.

Bill Gill described for the meeting the USFWS En-

dangered Species Information System (ESIS) – a database being developed for improving the storage, retrieval, and dissemination of information on nationally listed species. With 177 species records already in the data base, information is being collected on 422 species. All species listed through January 1987 should be loaded by the end of the year. The base contains 66 fields of information, including detailed narratives and standardized keyword fields for information searches. Species information is available through USFWS Regional offices, and information on the ESIS data base can be had from Bill Gill or Mike Hein (702 235-2760) or by writing to ESIS Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Endangered Species, Broyhill Bldg., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20240.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) staff reported that since 1974 TNC had been working in partnership with state governments to create centralized, biological inventories. A network of permanent information gathering institutions, called Natural Heritage Programs, has been established in nearly every state. TNC data bases currently contain records for about 36,000 species, with separate ranks for global, national, and state status. TNC data base also includes information

regarding taxonomy and synonyms, distribution, general biology, and habitat. Information on these species is available through the National Heritage Program state offices. Information on their data base is available from the National Heritage Task Force office, 1800 N. Kent St., Suite 800, Arlington, VA 22207; (703 841-5300).

Jeff Marion, Research Scientist
Mid Atlantic Region