



Asleep in the sun

This is the endangered species equivalent of the successful tabloid favourite; it shows, instead of a duckling nuzzling up to a fox cub, over a saucer of milk, a green turtle and a Hawaiian monk seal sunbathing together.

The photograph was taken by Dr. George Balazs, a turtle scientist and a member of the IUCN Survival Service Commission's Turtle Specialist Group, in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

The Refuge is a chain of tropical islands in the Hawaiian archipelago, where hundreds of

thousands of seabirds are found, as well as turtles and monk seals.

The monk seal has a Mediterranean cousin, which is as threatened as the Hawaiian species. Both 'monks' live in warm waters and their pups are black when born. The green turtle is threatened throughout its range, for meat, leather, eggs and oil but is more numerous in the Refuge than the Hawksbill turtle, another endangered turtle, killed mainly for its shell.



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