

### **Saola** (pronounced sow-la)

Located in Vietnam and Laos

*Saola* means “Spindle horned” in the Tai language of Vietnam and Lao language. *Saola* is critically endangered with only a few hundred animals living in isolated tropical areas in Vietnam and Laos. *Saola* looks like an antelope but is actually related to cattle or oxen. It was first discovered in 1992 and is rarely ever seen, which has given him the name of Asian Unicorn. *Saola* is threatened by poachers as well as the destruction of jungle and forest areas.

<http://www.allaboutwildlife.com/the-saola-an-asian-unicorn>



### **Leatherback sea turtle**

*Leatherbacks* swim all over the world, are the largest of the sea turtles and lays its eggs in many sandy beaches. The *leatherback* is critically endangered because of illegal hunting, theft of its eggs by humans and nesting habitat loss due to beach development and global climate change.

<http://www.allaboutwildlife.com/leatherback-sea-turtle>

### **The Northern Right Whale**



The *Right Whale* got its name from 19th century whalers who said it was the “right” whale for hunting as it floated on the water after being killed making it easy to gut and clean. Today its main adversaries are

ship strikes (a ship goes over the top of a whale and injures it), entanglements in fishing gear (ropes and nets) and a result of global climate change. The *Right Whale*'s main diet is the krill (a tiny, shrimp-like creature or crustacean) that has decreased in numbers due to the warming of the oceans particularly in the Gulf of Maine.

<http://www.allaboutwildlife.com/northern-right-whale>

### **Northern Sportive Lemur**

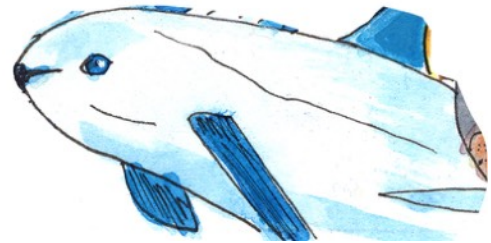
All *lemurs* live in one area of this world and that is the Island of Madagascar off the southeast coast of Africa. There are around 100 different species that live there and all are endangered, but the *Northern Sportive Lemur* and the *Greater Bamboo Lemur* are critically endangered, both having numbers below 100 with the *Sportive* being reported at less than 20. This lemur weighs less than 2 pounds and has huge eyes to help it see at night. The main cause for their decline is habitat loss due to logging and illegal hunting.

<http://www.allaboutwildlife.com/the-northern-sportive-lemur>



### **Vaquita—the Desert Porpoise**

*Vaquita* is the number one critically endangered marine mammal (cetacean) in the world. It resides in the northern part of the Gulf of California, a fresh water dolphin. The main cause for their demise is drowning in the illegal gill nets (a fishing net with floaters) that Mexican fishermen use.



Their numbers have dwindled from 600 in 1997 to 12-15 individuals in March of 2018. This leads to the conclusion that the *Vaquita* will soon be extinct. It will follow the freshwater *Baiji porpoise* of the Yangtze River in China into extinction if something is not done soon. The *Baiji* is the first dolphin species to be wiped out because of human behavior. Its cousin the *Yangtze Finless Porpoise* is also endangered.

<http://www.allaboutwildlife.com/vaquita>

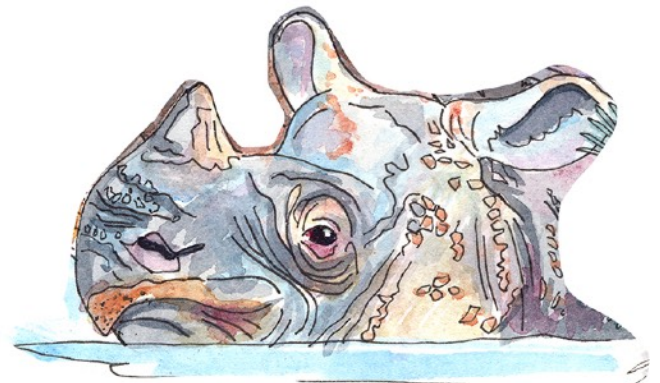
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaquita>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/yangtze-finless-porpoise>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gillnetting>

### **Javan Rhinoceros**

There are 5 species of rhinoceros and *Javan* is the most critically endangered. He roamed Southeast Asia and Indonesia in great numbers but is now dwindling to only 40-60 in Ujung Kulon National Park at the western tip of Java Island, Indonesia. He is hunted for his horn that is ground down for Asian folk medicine. The Java



Rhinoceroses left in the park may not be enough to continue breeding, and the rhino is likely to go extinct.

<http://www.allaboutwildlife.com/javan-rhinoceros>



### **Western Lowland Gorilla**

There are four subspecies of gorilla in Africa; *Western Lowland Gorilla*, *Eastern Lowland Gorilla*, *Mountain Gorilla* (longer hair and smaller size) and the *Cross River Gorilla* (the largest of the primates). Gorillas are extremely hard to count as they are very shy, so scientists count the nests where they sleep. All gorillas are considered critically endangered, although the *Western Lowland* has a greater population. They are critically endangered due to habitat

loss, human encroachment and poaching them for food, but the most deadly reason is a disease—the incurable ebola virus. Did you know that a gorilla is a close relative of the human race with 95%-99% of the same DNA? The chimpanzee is even closer!

<https://www.livescience.com/31397-gorillas-subspecies-images.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gorilla>

<http://www.allaboutwildlife.com/western-lowland-gorilla>

### **Tiger**

There are five subspecies of *Tiger* that have not gone extinct: the *Siberian*, *Bengal*, *Indochinese Tiger*, *Malayan Tiger*, and *Sumatran Tiger*. There are about 3,000 animals total living in Asia. The main reason this great cat is on the verge of extinction is the greed in China and Vietnam for tiger organs to make folk medicines. Poachers can make as much as \$50,000 for a full carcass of tiger. More poachers are willing to take a chance for a price like that! The Tigers that have gone extinct are the *Caspian*, *Javan*, *Balinese*, and *South China Tigers*—the *Bali* in 1937, the *Caspian* possibly in 1959, the *Javan* went extinct between 1950 and 1980. Today the *South China Tiger* is considered by scientists to be





“functionally extinct,” as it has not been sighted in the wild for more than 25 years.

<http://www.allaboutwildlife.com/the-tiger>  
<http://crownridgetigers.com/extinct-tigers>  
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/south-china-tiger>

### Chinese Giant Salamander

The *Chinese Giant Salamander* is the largest amphibian in the world and can grow to six feet in length. It has all but disappeared due to its use as a food source in China.

<http://www.allaboutwildlife.com/chinese-giant-salamander>



### Giant Panda

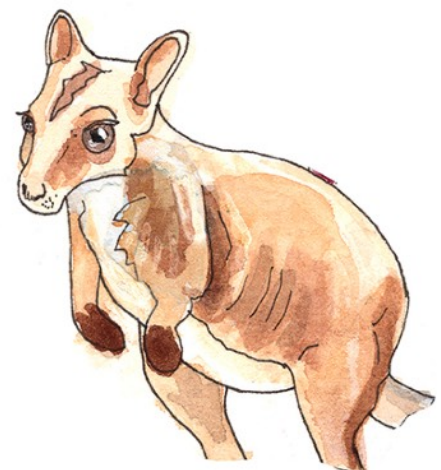
Although not critically endangered, the *Giant Panda* is still considered vulnerable to extinction due to habitat destruction. The population growth in China is phenomenal and with this growth comes the need for people to find more places to live. The *Giant Panda* is being pushed into areas that cannot support him. *Pandas* need to eat 20-40 pounds (10-20 kg) of

bamboo a day. Because the *Giant Panda* is valued highly in China, the Chinese government has taken steps to protect its bamboo habitat which has shown positive results. But because of predicted climate change, 35% of the *Panda's* habitat will be gone in 80 years.

<https://animalfactguide.com/animal-facts/giant-panda/>  
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/giant-panda>

### Nabarlek Rock Wallaby

Also known as the *Pygmy Rock Wallaby* or the *Little Rock Wallaby* of Northern Australia (Kimberly) was considered the smallest macropod (kangaroo) until the discovery of the



*Monjon* in 1978. He's a secretive creature and nocturnal (comes out at night) and hard to distinguish between other rock wallabies. Scientists are now convinced that he is on the brink of extinction. His demise has come on due to the European arrive, cats who have become feral (wild) and cattle grazing their habitats. Wildfire is also a threat. As the numbers decrease, the *Nabarlek* become more susceptible to climate change.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nabarlek>

<https://www.wwf.org.au/what-we-do/species/nabarlek#gs.LZDjuD9D>



### **African Gray Parrot**

Seen as a pet around the world, the *African Gray Parrot* is losing habitat in West and Central Africa. Once seen in massive, loud, colorful groups and spreading over a million miles, these parrots have almost disappeared. Felling of large trees where the parrots breed and the pet trade has caused this bird's decline. The *African Gray* has the ability to speak and form simple sentences at the level of a five year old which makes it the top in the pet trade around the world. Nigel Collar, of BirdLife International,

“...notes that since 1992 Ghana has lost 90 to 99 percent of its African grays” ([news.NationalGeographic.com](https://news.NationalGeographic.com)). “I’m not surprised that African grays are disappearing from Ghana,” said Steve Boyes, an African parrot specialist and National Geographic Emerging Explorer. “We’re also seeing local extinctions happening in Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, and throughout their range. We’re calling it the ‘African Silence’” ([news.NationalGeographic.com](https://news.NationalGeographic.com)).

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/02/160205-african-grey-parrots-wildlife-trafficking-ghana-extinction/>

### **Northern Rockhopper Penguin**

One of the smallest penguins (about 10 pounds) and spunkiest, the *Northern Rockhopper* is found in the South Atlantic and the Indian Ocean, inhabiting seven islands that make a total of 155 square miles (250 km). Within the last few decades, the *Northern Rockhopper* has declined by one million, giving some



islands a 90% reduction and putting them on the endangered list. The threats include: commercial fishing that infringe on the *Rockhopper's* diet, increased feeding on eggs by the accidental introduction of the house mouse, visits by tourist who have no respect for the environment and pollute the islands, and oil spills and egg harvesting. The *Northern Rockhopper's* sister the *Southern Rockhopper* is also in trouble. Conservation efforts are being taken to better understand the *Rockhopper's* decline and a Marine preserve is being sought to protect the *Rockhopper*.

<http://www.ourendangeredworld.com/species/birds-bats/northern-rockhopper-penguin/>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/southern-rockhopper-penguin>

### **Iberian Lynx**

*Iberian (Spanish) Lynx* is the most endangered species of cat in the world, but due to conservation measures the *Iberian Lynx* has grown in number from 100 to over 404. These animals live in the Mediterranean forests of the Iberian Peninsula. There is a conservation effort to re-establish the lynx in Spain and Portugal. Their numbers were drastically reduced by rapid habitat loss. Their domain was destroyed by agriculture and plantations, as well as highways and railways. Humans over-hunted the European rabbit which was their main source of food, and then a disease affected the remaining rabbits, killing so many that it caused the lynx to diminish drastically. This is the main threat to their survival. To save these cats, a risky and expensive procedure was done by capturing and breeding these cats to be re-established in the wild. An effort to increase the natural food (rabbits) of the cat has been done also.



[http://wwf.panda.org/our\\_work/wildlife/profiles/mammals/iberian\\_lynx/](http://wwf.panda.org/our_work/wildlife/profiles/mammals/iberian_lynx/)

<https://wildcatconservation.org/wild-cats/eurasia/iberian-lynx/>



### **Monarch Butterfly**

The *Monarch Butterfly* is the most recognized species in the United States, but it is in danger. Their numbers have decreased over the last 20 years and it needs your help.



Pesticides are probably the most significant threat as well as habitat loss. The milkweed is the only plant on the planet that the Monarch caterpillar can survive. Once thought as a weed and destroyed by agriculture and urban landscapers, it has now become a quest of Americans to save the Monarch by planting milkweed. Though not necessarily on the endangered species list, the Monarch is considered vulnerable. We can help change that. Plant a milkweed or two!

<https://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/>

<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/About/Native-Plants/Milkweed.aspx>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/monarch-butterfly>



### **Grevy's Zebra**

*Grevy's Zebra* are the largest of the three species of Zebra in Africa and are endangered, due to livestock taking over their feeding grounds. The other two zebras are the *Plains Zebra* and the *Mountain Zebra*, which also has a subspecies called *Hartmann's Zebra* but it is controversial. *Grevy's Zebras* are territorial rather than moving in herds like the other two. All three zebras inhabit different regions in Africa.

<https://www.livescience.com/27443-zebras.html>

<http://bucketlistnature.com/the-endangered-grevys-zebra/>

### **Bald Eagle**

Although no longer on the endangered species list, The *American Bald Eagle* is still being monitored under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

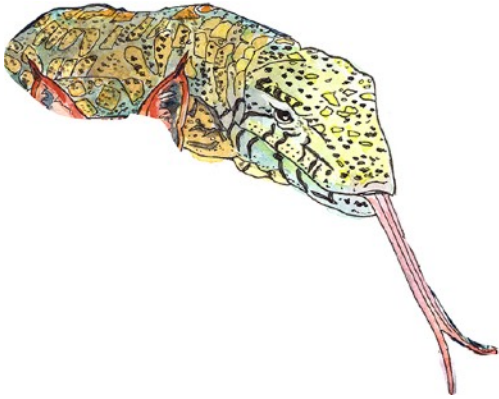


These birds of prey made a come back by 1988 with the help of breeding them in captivity and were taken off the list in 2007. DDT which killed many birds was banned in 1972. Power lines are being buried and nesting platforms are being built on top of transmission towers. Lead shot was banned in 1991 for hunting waterfowl as it caused lead poisoning in eagles who digested the shot. Cleaning rivers and air from

environmental pollution is a fight that continues today. Eagles are not the only North American bird in danger. There are eighteen species and subspecies that are declining in population.

<http://www.baldeagleinfo.com/eagle/future.html>

[https://www.birds-of-north-america.net/Endangered\\_Birds.html](https://www.birds-of-north-america.net/Endangered_Birds.html) (list of endangered birds)



### **Komodo Dragon**

The *Komodo Dragon* lives on Komodo Island and a few of its smaller outlining islands north of Australia. Its existence wasn't confirmed until the early 1900s. These giant lizards can grow to twelve feet and are meat eaters. Usually scavengers, they will hunt and kill prey. Their saliva is deadly and painful. It does not fear humans and deaths have been recorded. Threats to the *Komodo*

*Dragon* include illegal hunting for feet and skin to make novelties like purses, big game hunting for trophies to mount on walls, and loss of habitat due to human intrusion. Komodo Island has been designated a national park and because of the size of the island, poaching is almost nonexistent today. Tourism is probably the biggest threat to these large animals.

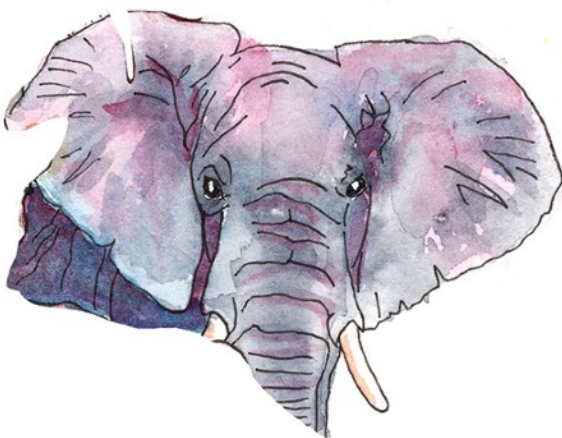
[http://www.bagheera.com/inthewild/van\\_anim\\_komodo.htm](http://www.bagheera.com/inthewild/van_anim_komodo.htm)

### **Elephant**

*Elephants* are the largest land mammals on the earth. There are two species, the *African* and the *Asian Elephant*. Genetically the two are so

unlike that they are considered to be in two different categories. The main reason for the elephants demise is human population and land development which has interfered with elephant migratory treks, food supplies and shelter. As a result of land destruction, people retaliate by killing the elephants. And poachers still hunt the elephants for their tusks. There are two subspecies of the *African Elephant*, the *Savana or Bush Elephant* and the *Forest Elephant* (DNA may

separate them into two different categories). The *Indian Elephant*, *Borneo pygmy Elephant*, *Sumatran Elephant* and the *Sri Lankan Elephant* are





subspecies of the *Asian Elephant*. The *Sumatran Elephant* is the smallest of all and is classified as critically endangered.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/a/african-elephant/>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/african-elephant>

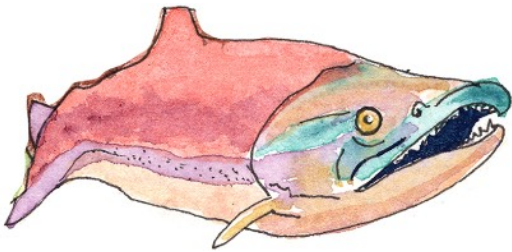
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/magazine/issues/winter-2018/articles/the-status-of-african-elephants>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/indian-elephant>

<https://animals.mom.me/size-indian-african-asian-elephants-1775.html>

## Pacific Salmon

There are five species of *Pacific Salmon*, *Chinook* or *King*, *Coho*, *Pink*, *Sockeye* and *Chum*. The *Pacific Salmon* are threatened with the *Sockeye*



on the endangered species list. The salmon starts its life adventure as a freshwater fish or *smolts*. After hatching, it swims to the ocean and grows to its adult size. When it is time for it to spawn (lay) more eggs, it swims to the freshwater rivers and dies after it spawns. It is a major food source for indigenous peoples in the Pacific Rim.

Salmon is harvested commercially and eaten in homes and restaurants around the world. But they are in danger due to poaching, habitat destruction from mining and dams, unregulated harvesting and climate change. It is crucial that spawning areas are reserved. The largest wild salmon fishery, Bristol Bay, is in danger to an open pit mine operation. Oil spills and shipping safety are indeed an issue to the safety of the *Pacific Salmon*.

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/pacific-salmon>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/proposed-mining-operation-in-bristol-bay-puts-wildlife-and-people-at-risk>

[https://www.rco.wa.gov/salmon\\_recovery/listed\\_species.shtml](https://www.rco.wa.gov/salmon_recovery/listed_species.shtml)



## Gray Wolf

A success story, the *Gray Wolf subspecies* introduced into Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, specifically Yellowstone National Park, is officially off the endangered species list. As a result, the wolves have helped reduce an overpopulation of elk who were overeating brush and trees in groves and along streams. This in turn helped the birds, fish,

beavers and other wildlife to find shelter. The *Gray Wolf* was removed from federal protection in 2011. This success is a wonderful example of wildlife restoration in America. The *Mexican Gray Wolf*, however, is not so lucky. It is considered the most endangered wolf species in the world. Habitat loss and humans are its worst enemy. So much so that the species has not been seen in the lower American landscape for over a half a century.

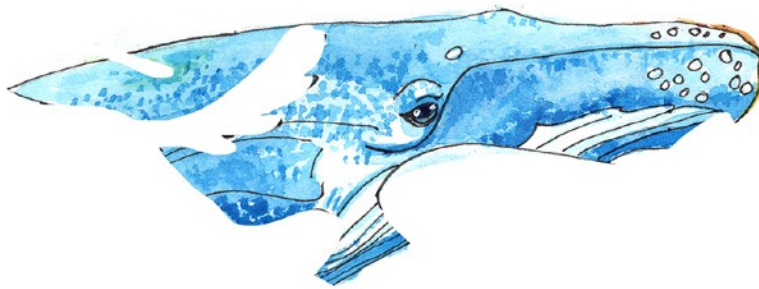
<http://www.endangered.org/animal/gray-wolf/>

<https://www.fws.gov/home/wolfrecovery/>

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/wolf-restoration.htm>

## **Humpback Whale**

The *Humpback* is one of the world's most popular mammals. It has an incredible song that is quite complex and uses bubbles to capture schools



of fish. It makes magnificent jumps out of the ocean and has distinctive tail flukes (meaning flat). They live throughout the world, can grow to 52 feet in length and weigh in at 30-50 tons. They are called baleen whales, meaning that they feed

through a filter that strains shrimp-like krill, tiny fish, or plankton through its baleen plates. Commercial whaling was their downfall. In 1946 humpback whaling was regulated, and in 1966 it was ended. In 1970, they were one of the first species to be named endangered under the Endangered Species Conservation Act, the forerunner to the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The *Humpback* is considered endangered the world over and is also protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

<http://www.endangered.org/animal/humpback-whale/>

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?>

[adfg=specialstatus.fedsummary&species=humpbackwhale](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=specialstatus.fedsummary&species=humpbackwhale)

## **Agabus Clypealis Beetle**

In 1996 *Agabus Clypealis Beetle* was listed endangered in Denmark, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russia and Sweden. It is a predatory aquatic (living or feeding in or around water) beetle. It is one of three *Agabus* that was named endangered. The other two being *Agabus Discicollis* (in Ethiopia) and *Agabus Hozgargantae* (in Spain).



<http://www.earthsendangered.com/profile.asp?gr=l&sp=1735>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agabus\\_\(beetle\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agabus_(beetle))



### **Blanding's Turtle**

*Blanding's Turtle* is the number one “pet” turtle in the country. It is not yet been described as endangered but is under a proposal to make it so. Its main obstacle is human trading. It is a wetland turtle, breeds in sandy areas with grasses and shrubs, occupies large

areas and is highly mobile (moving). It is found across the United States and in Canada. Canada has regulatory conservation requirements that prohibit the exporting of these creatures but the U. S. does not. Habitat infringement is another reason for the turtle's demise. They are killed on roads, are eaten by predators like cats and dogs and lose their natural surroundings to land conversion. A concern is the mortality rate and collecting of these turtles can lead to inbreeding which will jeopardize its future. Action is needed.

<https://www.fws.gov/international/cites/cop16/blandings-turtle.html>  
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/Animals.asp?mode=detail&SpecCode=ARAAD04010>

### **Polar Bear**

*Polar Bears* are a marine animal spending most their life on ice in and around the Arctic Ocean. They have thick fur and a good layer of fat to keep them warm. Their main diet is ringed and bearded seals who also have a layer of fat. This layer of fat is needed by the *Polar Bear* to maintain its own fat levels. They are good swimmers, swimming as much as six miles per hour by using their front paws as paddles and their hind feet as rudders.



There are 19 subpopulations of the *Polar Bear* with one in the Southern Beaufort Sea showing a decline in population and six others showing the same. Climate change, hunting and pollution are their worst enemies. In May 2008, the *Polar Bear* was put on the threatened list under the Endangered Species Act. Climate change is a



growing concern for these and other arctic animals. We need to be more conscious of our pollution.

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/polar-bear>

<https://www.polarbear-world.com/polar-bear-endangered/>



### **African lion**

Trophy hunts have finally been addressed and the *African lion* has finally been added to the endangered species list. Only about 1400 lions exist in the regions of western and central Africa. These numbers include the Asiatic lions of India who are not just endangered but critically endangered. There is another subspecies of lion in eastern and southern Africa that is also considered threatened. The African lion is projected to lose another 50% in the next 20 years. In a press conference, FWS director Dan Ashe called lions “iconic,” “a part of our culture,” and one of the most

beloved wildlife species on the planet.

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/extinction-countdown/african-lions-protection/>

<https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ID=35403>

### **Dusky Starfrontlet hummingbird**

*Hummingbirds* are the world's second largest family of birds with an estimated 338 species but found only in the new world (the North and South American Continents). Thirty-four species, or nearly ten per cent, are threatened with extinction, according to an analysis by BirdLife International.

<http://www.hummingbirdsociety.org/endangered-hummingbirds-list>



### **Lear's Macaw**

*Lear's Macaws* are a popular cage bird which is the main cause of their reduced numbers in the wild. Another cause to their downfall is cattle. The main food for these birds is licurí palm which is used as fodder for cattle. Canudos Biological Station protects the *Lear's Macaw* from poachers.



It is located in Brazil in sandstone canyons where they roost and nest. Because of this haven, the *Lear's Macaw*, also known as *Indigo Macaw*, has increased from 70 known birds in 1980 to about 1300 today—a success story. In 2009 the Lear's Macaw was downgraded from critically endangered to endangered.

<https://abcbirds.org/bird/lears-macaw/>

<https://www.parrots.org/projects/lears-macaw>



### **Baby Seal**

*Arctic Seals, Ringed and Bearded Seals*, are listed as threatened because of climate change but they seem to be doing well with the lack of ice for raising young. One of the worst things that can happen to a baby seal is it's being clubbed to death for its white fur. It is still a common hunt in Canada.

<https://www.alaskapublic.org/2019/02/06/so-far-seals-are-adapting-to-shrinking-sea-ice/>

<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada-is-never-ever-going-to-stop-killing-seals-your-tell-all-guide-to-the-seal-hunt>

### **Dolloff Cave Spider**

The *Dolloff Cave Spider* makes its home in the caves near the University of Santa Cruz, California. The spider makes his web at the entrance of the



Empire Cave System and when intruders, especially students/vandals, visit the caves, the nests are destroyed. Graffiti, bonfires and wild parties have also destroyed the balance of the fauna that the spider needs to exist.

The *Dolloff Cave Spider* is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. It has not yet made the endangered species list. Measures like gates to caves have been taken to protect the spider but humans destroy them.

<https://animals.mom.me/creepy-endangered-spiders-8292.html>

<https://www.arkive.org/dolloff-cave-spider/meta-dolloff/>

### **Walrus**

The *Pacific Walrus* has made a comeback from the endangered listings twice since the 1930s—another success story. It has managed to adapt to its surroundings mainly due to human interaction. In the 1980s it was clear

that conservation efforts had helped the *Walrus*. One of the most successful endeavors to the *Walrus* is the banning of ivory in many countries. Native Americans are the only peoples allowed to kill the *Walrus*. They use the meat for food, the fat for lanterns, the skin for clothing and other necessities. Illegal poaching still threatens the *Walrus*. Though the *Pacific Walrus* will not receive protection under the Endangered Species Act, it continues to be protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. <https://www.walrus-world.com/walrus-endangered/>  
<https://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/mmm/walrus/esa.htm>



### **Arctic Fox**

The *Arctic Fox* pictured here is in his summer coat. Most photos are taken of him when he wears his winter coat which is a stunning white. He is vulnerable at this time because that coat is valued by poachers. The Arctic Fox is also threatened by diseases spread by domestic dogs, the encroachment of the red fox due to climate change, the lack of food especially the lemmings and habitat destruction. The Trump administration is trying to eliminate the arctic protection laws in order to do offshore drilling for oil. Offshore drilling also affects other Arctic animals like polar bears,

Beluga whales, seals, walruses as well as the habitat and arctic birds. <https://www.reference.com/pets-animals/arctic-foxes-endangered-d293d0e38a88c6b6>  
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/arctic-fox>  
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/how-would-offshore-oil-and-gas-drilling-in-the-arctic-impact-wildlife>  
<https://defenders.org/arctic-fox/threats>

### **Illidge's Ant Blue Butterfly**

The Illidge's Ant Blue Butterfly is native to Australia and is confirmed to exist in six locations. They are threatened mostly by the destruction of mangrove habitats. The mangrove is a bush or shrub that forms dense thickets. Its destruction also threatens other organisms such as crustaceans and





molluscs (also spelled as mollusks). In 1990 Queensland granted the butterfly permanent protective status.

<http://www.earthsendangered.com/profile.asp?gr=1&view=all&ID=4&sp=1777>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illidge%27s\\_ant\\_blue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illidge%27s_ant_blue)

## Green Sea Turtle

The *Green Sea Turtle* is one of the largest sea turtles and lives mainly in subtropical and tropical areas. It is the only one to eat plants (herbivore). Depending on the species of turtle, some are carnivores (eating just meat) while others are omnivores (eating both plant and animal). The *Green*



*Sea Turtle* is classified as endangered. The over harvested eggs and the meat of the turtle are considered delicacies and the habitat of the *Green Sea Turtle* is being destroyed due to human encroachment. They also get caught in fishing gear which is a death trap. There are six endangered sea turtles: the *Green Sea Turtle*, the *Leatherback*, the *Loggerhead*, the *Hawksbill*, the *Kimp's Ridley* and the *Olive Ridley*. The Kimp's Ridley is the smallest and the Leatherback, the largest.

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/green-turtle>

<https://www.seeturtles.org/sea-turtle-diet/>

<https://deepoceanfacts.com/endangered-sea-turtles-list> (this site has awful grammar but worth the read)

## Giraffe

*Giraffes* have been added to the vulnerable list because their numbers have reduced 30-40% in the last three decades, due to habitat destruction and poaching. Even though the *Giraffe* is protected, local people kill the giraffe for food but mostly for the tail which is a status symbol. There are nine subspecies of *Giraffe*, five of which are decreasing in number. The smallest *Giraffe* and the most endangered is the



*Western African Giraffe* that—with the help of Niger government and conservationists, has increased from 50 animals in the 1990s to 400 today. “Whilst giraffes are commonly seen on safari, in the media and in zoos, people—including conservationists—are unaware that these majestic animals are undergoing a silent extinction,” Julian Fennessy, the co-chair of the IUCN's Species Survival Commission's Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group says in a press release (2).

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/giraffes-silently-slip-endangered-species-list-180961372/#2JRjX1RsepHOVG6z.99>

2. <https://www.iucn.org/news/secretariat/201612/new-bird-species-and-giraffe-under-threat---iucn-red-list>



### **Bombus Affinis Bumblebee**

The *Bombus Affinis Bumblebee* has been listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The reason for their demise is the loss of habitat area in the prairies and grasslands of the Upper Midwest and Northeast. Intense farming has been considered a good thing, but nonetheless, farmers are still using pesticides which are absorbed through the exoskeleton. These bees live in the ground where pesticides can be present for years. There is also a loss of crop diversity which results in flowering crops being available for only a short time, loss of

hedgerows and the flowers that grew there, and loss of legume pastures. Climate change is another concern. Hopefully the bumblebee can adapt.

<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/rpbb/factsheetrpbb.html>



### **Chimpanzee**

Although the *Chimpanzee* has stable numbers right now, 80% of them—along with the gorilla, live outside protected areas. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has put

the *Chimpanzee* on the endangered species list due to loss of habitat, poaching, and disease. These threats are worsening because of human encroachment which includes increased population, the expansion of

towns and cities, and increasing need for natural resources to accommodate the growing human population. *Chimpanzees* are among a favorite “pet” in the U. S. and other countries and poaching is common. Right now a permit is required for importing and exporting a *Chimpanzee* from or into the U. S. but only for scientific reasons. Chimpanzees are no longer aloud in the U. S. as pets. Did you know that chimpanzees carry about 98% of human genes? This makes them the closest of all apes to being our cousins!

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/chimpanzee>

<https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/chimpanzee.html>

### **Walia Ibex**

The *Walia Ibex* or the *Abyssinian Ibex* is found only in the Semien Mountain



National Parks of Ethiopia, and nowhere else in the world. Due to rapid declines in population, the *Walia Ibex* is classified as critically endangered. Before 1969 and the establishment of the Simien Mountains National Park, there were only 150-200 animals left. They have increased to around 500 individuals today because of the protection of the park. There is still concern for these animals due to habitat loss and poaching by local people for the meat,

hides and horns. It continues to be an ongoing problem.

<http://www.jupiterinternationalhotel.com/blog/2019/01/12/walia-ibex-endangered-species-ibex/>

<https://thewebsiteofeverything.com/animals/mammals/Artiodactyla/Bovidae/Capra/Capra-walie.html>

### **Carnaby's Black Cockatoo**

The *Carnaby's Black Cockatoo* lives only in southwest Western Australia where farming has encroached on much of its habitat. Mature eucalypts such as salmon gum and wandoo which have suitable hollows for nesting have been destroyed for farming activities. The nest hollows created by the eucalypts are the only place these birds will nest. It takes over 100 years to replenish a grove of trees that has been destroyed. This is the major threat to the *Carnaby's Black Cockatoo*. Poaching





too is still an issue for these beautiful birds. They are valued as pets in many countries.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/factsheet-carnabys-black-cockatoo-calyptorhynchus-latiostris>



### **Honey Bee**

There are over 20,000 species of *Honey Bee* in the U. S. that are not considered endangered except for seven species of the *Hawaiian Yellow-Faced Bees* in Hawaii and the surrounding islands. However, in the United States during a span of seven years, the nation saw an average rate of 1.6 million bees die each year.

Climate change and pesticides are the biggest threat to the *Honey Bee*.

<http://climate.org/7-species-of-bees-added-to-endangered-list/>

### **Sun parakeet**

Also known as the *Sun Conure*, the *Sun Parakeet* is native to the north-eastern coastal forests of South America, mainly northeastern Brazil and Guyana. They were thought to exist in eastern Venezuela, French Guiana; Suriname, but their current status is unknown. They are considered endangered due to the loss of habitat and trapping for the pet trade. They are very scarce and absent across many parts of its former range. They are a popular pet and are bred in captivity.

<https://www.beautyofbirds.com/sunconure.html>



### **Coastal Emu**

The *Emu* inhabited most of Australia and Tasmania, but today it is extinct in Tasmania but still resides in coastal and near-coastal areas in Australia. It is diminishing fast. The *Emu* is on his way to extinction due to fragmentation (habitat loss), fires, predatory animals like red foxes and feral dogs, highways and fences and lack of knowledge



to protect these birds.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10250>

<https://www.edgepledge.com/wildlife-projects/coastalemu>



### **Whooping Crane**

In 1940 there were only 15 *Whooping Cranes* alive. In 1967 they were added to the Endangered Species List. And today they have made a magnificent comeback with numbers just at 600. It took work and commitment to help these birds. Migrating *Whooping Cranes* summer in northwestern Canada and

central Wisconsin and then winter along the Gulf Coast of Texas and the southeastern United States. There are groups of birds that don't migrate and live in Florida and coastal Louisiana. There are only two species of crane in the United States and the *Whooping Crane* is one. It stands on spindly legs and can reach as high as five feet with a wing spread of seven feet. One of the threats to this bird is the building of power lines to supply power to oil pumping stations. This can interfere with flight patterns and cause collision and electrocution to these birds.

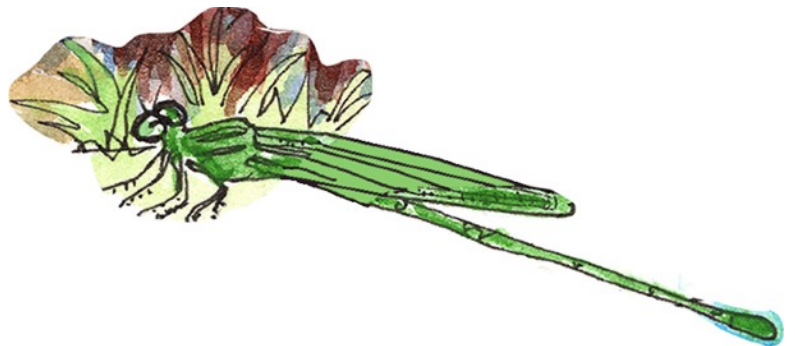
<http://www.endangered.org/animal/whooping-crane-2/>

<http://operationmigration.org/the-whooping-crane.asp>

### **Drepanosticta Ceratophora Dragonfly**

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), there are 343 endangered insects of which one is the *Drepanosticta Ceratophora Dragonfly*. There were no actual websites on this dragonfly perhaps because it is one of so many that are endangered.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_endangered\\_insects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_endangered_insects)



## Jungle Vines

I mention *Jungle Vines* as being endangered to help us remember that a common theme to all the endangered species is deforestation and habitat loss. It doesn't just happen in the jungles of South America, it happens across the world. There is only one reason for habitat loss and that is over-population.



There are over 7 billion people living on this world and it's growing quickly. Here is a good website to check the population of countries and daily increases. <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/> There is a chart towards the bottom that shows the population growth from the year 300 to the year 1000 without much growth. But after that there is a steady but slow growth until you hit the 1700s. Then it increases more to the 1900s. It continues to the 2010s with a massive increase in population. If it continues, there will be no room for anyone to be free.

The world scientists started calling the growth in the 1950s and '60s a *population explosion*. Ever heard the term *Baby Boomer*? Population continues to grow because the death rate is less than half the birth rate. As the population grows, wild animals are losing their stomping grounds and many are on the verge of extinction.

For example, the buffalo lost its freedom to fences and human care. Although at one time in the 1970s they were on the endangered species list, they are no more because man intervened and put them on ranches. Man took their space to build towns and cities and parks and reservoirs. The buffalo does not roam free anymore. Some animals survive the



invasion like bears, deer and raccoons but some don't like the humpback whale, the Dolloff cave spider, the Monarch butterfly or the Pacific salmon.

“What can we do?” is the question of the millennium. We can't tell people to not have babies. We can't tell the Catholic Church to allow birth control. We can't tell China to stop increasing its population. We can't tell anyone what to do. We could make laws to limit birth, but that is an infringement on our human rights, isn't it? Maybe there are better ways like electing officials who support environmental issues. Try to find alternatives to energy like solar or wind. Create more city parks and national parks. Preserve what we have left. Support organizations that are trying to stop deforestation and habitat loss to creatures. Find things closer to home like the humane society to support. Make sure you recycle. Pick up trash that you see on the road. Don't use plastic. Buy an electric car. There are so many ways to help locally. Make up your own rules to save our world and follow them. Encourage others to stop doing what harms the environment. But most important: make sure you are kind to each other and don't bully or tease.