

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT STEPS UP FIGHT TO SAVE NEAR-EXTINCT WILDLIFE

The Department of the Interior announced today it has named a special scientific team in its Fish and Wildlife Service to make an intensive study aimed at preserving dozens of rare or endangered forms of American wildlife, ranging from the Nene goose of Hawaii to the polar bear of the Arctic.

In making its announcement, the Department released a long list of fast-vanishing American birds, mammals, fish, and reptiles and gave specific information regarding the nearly two-score birds and mammals that have disappeared from the American scene in less than 150 years. Of the extinct species, about half have vanished since 1900.

"The study to be undertaken by the Department is a firm step directed at halting the further disappearance of endangered wildlife," Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said. "We hope that with man's aid and understanding, the long list of threatened species can be narrowed. The scientific study, we believe, is essential if we are to reverse the trend that has witnessed such a heavy toll of some of our most valuable species since the turn of the century."

Specialists in the biology of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish--all from the ranks of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife--comprise the study team. Commissioner Clarence F. Pautzke of the Fish and Wildlife Service said they will advise Director Daniel H. Janzen of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, which is responsible for Federal programs to protect and preserve rare and endangered American wildlife.

In its studies, the Federal team will work with private and non-Federal groups and will seek the counsel of prominent authorities concerned with wildlife management and preservation.

The serious situation facing so many American wildlife species is not peculiar to this Hemisphere, Commissioner Pautzke said. Many species of the

African veldt--its great cats, elephants, and numerous other wildlife--are in danger. In the world's oceans, the blue whale and the great marine turtles also face extinction. These forms of wildlife can be saved only through the highest type of forward-looking conservation actions, according to Pautzke.

An important function of the study team will be the development of cooperative programs with non-Federal groups to propagate rare and endangered species. Another is the designating of exotic species that should be denied entrance into the United States under provisions of Federal laws that bar importation of undesirable species.

A species is considered "rare" when its numbers are small but its survival is not in jeopardy in the foreseeable future. When survival is seriously threatened, it is "endangered."

Bureau Director Janzen said many of the world's wildlife species are in trouble because complex forces of civilization are upsetting delicate life patterns--habitat is being destroyed; some species are being harvested beyond their reproductive capacity; and pollutants resulting from man's activities introduced into nature are silently attacking others.

"In some instances, the reason for the decrease of a species is more complex and obscure," Janzen added. "Many people are surprised to learn that as many as 35 or 40 kinds of animals native to the North American Continent have become extinct within the span of U. S. history."

Members of the special study team include Charles H. Lawrence, assistant chief, Management and Enforcement, Chairman; Drs. John W. Aldrich, Ray C. Erickson, and Richard H. Manville, Wildlife Research; Dr. Willis King, chief, Fishery Management Services; Lynn H. Hutchens, Fish Hatcheries; Gale W. Monson, Wildlife Refuges; Samuel E. Jorgensen, chief, Office of Foreign Activities; and Clifford Presnall, chief, Predator and Rodent Control, all of Washington, D. C.

In developing its recommendations, the study team will seek assistance from experts outside Government. In problems that arise in connection with the propagation of rare and endangered migratory game birds, such authorities as Carl Buchheister, president of the National Audubon Society, New York City; Dr. John A. Griswold, ornithologist and curator of birds, Philadelphia Zoological Garden; Jack Kiracofe, president of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association, Sierra Vista, Ariz.; and Dr. S. Dillon Ripley, zoologist and former curator of Yale University's Peabody Museum (now Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution), have agreed to assist the team.

The team also will consult with the Canadian Wildlife Service to insure full coordination of propagation and other management efforts undertaken to prevent the extinction of any American wildlife species. It also will ask other highly qualified representatives of private organizations prominent in the field of wildlife conservation and aviculture for advice on problems concerned with the preservation of rare and endangered wildlife.

A partial list of extinct and endangered species of the United States and Puerto Rico is attached.

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Note to Editors: Suitable photographs to illustrate this story can be obtained from the Office of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Room 3004 Interior Building, Washington, D. C. 20240.

PARTIAL LIST OF EXTINCT AND ENDANGERED ANIMALS
OF THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO

Extinct Birds of the United States and Puerto Rico
(with time of extinction)

Labrador duck, Camptorhynchus labradorium (1875)--Northeastern North America
Heath hen, Tympanuchus c. cupido (1932)--Eastern United States
Laysan Island rail, Porzana palmeri (1944)--Laysan Island, Hawaii
Spotted Hawaiian rail, Pennula sandwichensis (about 1883)--Hawaii Island, Hawaii
Great auk, Pinguinus impennis (about 1844)--North Atlantic Ocean
Passenger pigeon, Ectopistes canadensis (1914)--North America
Mauge's paroquet, Aratinga chloroptera maugei (about 1892)--Puerto Rico
Carolina paroquet, Conuropsis c. carolinensis (about 1904)--Southeastern United States
Louisiana paroquet, Conuropsis c. ludoviciana (about 1912)--South-central United States
Oahu thrush, Phaeornis obscurus oahensis (after 1825)--Oahu Island, Hawaii
Laysan miller bird, Acrocephalus f. familiaris (bet. 1904 and 1923)--Laysan I., Hawaii
Kioea, Chaetoptila angustipluma (after 1859)--Hawaii Island, Hawaii
Oahu oo, Moho apicalis (about 1837)--Oahu Island, Hawaii
Laysan honeyeater, Himatione sanguinea freethii (soon after 1923)--Laysan I., Hawaii
Hawaii mamo, Drepanis pacifica (about 1898)--Hawaii Island, Hawaii
Perkins' mamo, Drepanis funeria (about 1907)--Molokai Island, Hawaii
Oahu akiakoa, Hemignathus obscurus wolstenholmei (after 1837)--Oahu Island, Hawaii
Lanai akiakoa, Hemignathus obscurus lanaiensis (about 1894)--Lanai Island, Hawaii
Oahu nukupuu, Hemignathus l. lucidus (about 1860)--Oahu Island, Hawaii
Oahu akepa, Luxops coccinea (about 1900)--Oahu Island, Hawaii
Ula-ai-hawane, Ciridops anna (about 1892)--Hawaii Island, Hawaii
Palmer's hopue, Psittirostra palmeri (about 1896)--Hawaii Island, Hawaii
Yellow-headed hopue, Psittirostra flaviceps (about 1891)--Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Extinct Mammals of the United States
(with approximate date of disappearance)

Gull Island vole, Microtus nesophilus (1898)--Eastern Long Island Sound
Amargosa meadow vole, Microtus californicus scirpensis (1917)--California
Plains wolf, Canis lupus nubilus (1926)--Great Plains
Arizona grizzly, Ursus arizonae (1937)--Arizona, New Mexico
California grizzly, Ursus californicus (1922)--California coast
Southern California grizzly, Ursus magister (1908)--Southern California
Plains grizzly, Ursus horribilis (1895)--Great Plains
Tejon grizzly, Ursus tularensis (1898)--Southern California
Texas grizzly, Ursus texensis (1890)--Texas, New Mexico, Colorado
Sea mink, Mustela macrodon (1890)--New England coast
Eastern puma, Felis concolor cougar (1899)--Eastern United States
Steller's sea cow, Hydrodamalis stelleri (1854)--North Pacific, Bering Sea
Merriam elk, Cervus merriami (1900)--Arizona
Eastern elk, Cervus c. canadensis (1880)--east of Great Plains
Badlands bighorn, Ovis canadensis auduboni (1910)--North and South Dakota
Rimrock bighorn, Ovis canadensis californiana (1914)--California, Oregon, Washington

Species and Subspecies of Birds Possibly in Danger of Extinction in the United States and Puerto Rico

- Nene, Branta sandvicensis--Islands of Hawaii and Maui, Hawaii
Aleutian Canada goose, Branta canadensis leucopareia--Aleutian Islands, Alaska
Tule white-fronted goose, Anser albifrons gambelli--winters in California; breeding range unknown
Northern Mexican duck, Anas diazi novimexicans--Southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and western Texas
Laysan duck, Anas wyvilliana lasanensis--Laysan Island, Hawaii
Hawaiian duck, Anas w. wyvilliana--larger Hawaiian Islands
Greater prairie chicken, Tympanuchus cupido pinnatus--central United States to central southern Canada
Attwater's prairie chicken, Tympanuchus cupido attwateri--coast of Texas
California condor, Gymnogyps californianus--southern mountains of California
Florida Everglade kite, Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus--southern Florida
Southern bald eagle, Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus--Southeastern United States
Whooping crane, Grus americana--breeds in central southern Mackenzie; winters on Texas coast
Florida sandhill crane, Grus canadensis pratensis--Florida, central southern Georgia, and southern Mississippi
Hawaiian gallinule, Gallinula chloropus sandvicensis--large islands of Hawaii
Hawaiian stilt, Himantopus himantopus krudseni--large islands of Hawaii
Eskimo curlew, Numenius borealis--migrates through Texas coast; breeding and winter range unknown
Puerto Rican parrot, Amazona v. vittata--Eastern Puerto Rico
American ivory-billed woodpecker, Campephilus principalis--South Carolina, Florida, eastern Texas
Hawaiian crow, Corvus tropicus--Island of Hawaii, Hawaii
Puaiohi, Phaeornis palmeri--Kauai Island, Hawaii
Nihoa miller-bird, Acrocephalus kingi--Nihoa Island, Hawaii
Kauai oo, Moho braccatus--Kauai Island, Hawaii
Kauai akialoa, Hemignathus procerus--Kauai Island, Hawaii
Kauai nukupuu, Hemignathus lucidus hanapepe--Kauai Island, Hawaii
Maui parrotbill, Pseudonestor xanthophrys--Maui Island, Hawaii
Ou, Psittirostra psittacea--larger Hawaiian Islands except Oahu
Palila, Psittirostra bailleui--Island of Hawaii, Hawaii
Nihoa finch, Psittirostra ultima--Nihoa Island, Hawaii
Crested honey-creeper, Palmeria dolei--Maui and Molokai Islands, Hawaii
Bachman's warbler, Vermivora bachmanii--Southeastern United States
Kirtland's warbler, Dendroica kirtlandii--Lower Peninsula, Michigan
Golden-cheeked warbler, Dendroica chrysoparia--Edwards Plateau, Texas
Dusky seaside sparrow, Ammospiza nigrescens--Merritt Island, Florida
Cape Sable sparrow, Ammospiza mirabilis--Everglades National Park, south Florida
Ipswich sparrow, Passerculus princeps--breeds on Sable Island, Nova Scotia; winters on Atlantic Coast of United States

Endangered Mammals of the United States and Puerto Rico

Tule or dwarf elk, Cervus nannodes--two small herds in San Joaquin Valley and Owens Valley, California
Bighorn sheep, Ovis canadensis--Pacific Northwest, United States
Black-footed ferret, Mustela nigripes--South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Colorado
Utah prairie dog, Cynomys parvidens--Southwestern Utah
Kaibab squirrel, Sciurus kaibabensis--Kaibab Plateau, north side Grand Canyon, Arizona
Beach meadow vole, Microtus breweri--Muskeget Island off Nantucket, Massachusetts
Block Island meadow vole, Microtus provectus--Block Island, R. I.
Key deer, Odocoileus virginianus clavium--Florida Keys
Grizzly bear, Ursus horribilis--Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks; Mt. McKinley National Park, Katmai and Glacier National Monuments, Alaska
Glacier bear, Ursus americanus emmonsii--Alaskan glaciers between Lynn Canal and Cape St. Elias
Southern sea otter, Enhydra lutris nereis--Pacific Coast from Washington to Baja California
Peninsula fox squirrel, Sciurus niger cinereus--Delmarva Peninsula
Eastern fox squirrel, Sciurus niger vulpinus--Central Atlantic States excluding Delmarva Peninsula
Polar bear, Thalarctos maritimus--Arctic coast and ice floes
Manatee, Trichechus manatus--Southern Florida
Walrus, Odobenus rosmarus--Northern oceans

Endangered Fish of the United States

Atlantic salmon, Salmo salar--mostly in Maine; land-locked fish in some New Hampshire lakes and Lake George, New York
Arctic grayling, Thymallus arcticus--west-central Montana, Alaska
Lahontan cutthroat trout, Salmo clarki henshawi--a few Nevada lakes
Ohio muskellunge, Esox masquinongy ohioensis--Ohio River drainage--Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana
Maryland darter, Etheostoma sellare--Swan Creek, Aberdeen, and Harford Counties, Md.
Olympic mud minnow, Novumbra hubbsi--Olympic Peninsula, western Washington

Endangered Reptiles of the United States

American crocodile, Crocodylus acutus--Cape Sable and Florida Keys
American alligator, Alligator mississippiensis--Gulf States to Carolinas
Green turtle, Chelonia mydas--Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean

Note: Scientists are not in complete agreement on whether some of the animals listed here are technically "endangered." There is no "official" designation of the species listed. Certain animals in these lists have been suggested by specialists of the U. S. National Museum and of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists