

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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LIST OF ENDANGERED FAUNA  
PUBLISHED BY U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The Manus Island tree snail of the Southwest Pacific, the South American jaguar, the gorilla in Africa, the southern bald eagle in the United States, and the blue whale, the largest animal in the world, are among more than 400 animals listed by Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

The listing is contained in the "United States List of Endangered Fauna," a new publication announced today by Fish and Wildlife Service Director Lynn A. Greenwalt.

Every continent except Antarctica has some of its native wildlife endangered. Over 100 of the listed animals occur in the United States, including 50 birds and 31 fishes. In addition to the Manus Island tree snail, the worldwide list shows 169 birds, 164 mammals, 39 fishes, 26 reptiles, and 6 amphibians to be endangered.

"Most of these animals are endangered primarily because of environmental factors," Greenwalt said. "These include habitat destruction, pollution or other environmental contaminants, competition with introduced species or diseases, and breeding with similar species that are more adaptable to an altered environment and direct human disturbance.

"In some foreign countries, hunting for sport or commercial purposes and other types of exploitation are threatening some animals. Even within the United States illegal shooting is still a serious drain on endangered

(over)

species like the peregrine falcon. These are only examples. There are many other factors, including the low reproductive rates of some animals and the inflexible habitat, nesting, or feeding requirements of others."

Any species, subspecies, or population of plant or animal can qualify as an endangered or threatened species if scientific data supports such listing. In addition, adding or deleting a species listing must be done in accordance with formal legal procedures. This includes consultation with affected States, foreign countries, national and international organizations, and scientists who have knowledge of the species in question. Any proposal to add or delete a species must also be published in the Federal Register and at least 60 days be provided for public comment. The same processes must be followed in removing a species from the lists.

The Endangered Species Act protects endangered and threatened species within the United States and provides for participation in various international treaties and conventions in which the United States has pledged its support for the conservation of wild flora and fauna worldwide.

Under the Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been designated as the lead agency for identifying and preserving or restoring endangered and threatened species except for certain marine species that are the responsibility of the National Marine Fisheries Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Both agencies solicit the help of all interested parties, including State wildlife agencies and other Federal agencies, and scientists, universities, and organizations in this country and abroad.

A major effort by the Fish and Wildlife Service that is now underway is the development and implementation of action plans, known as recovery plans, for each endangered species. These plans describe the coordinated actions needed to reverse the causes for an animal's precarious status, and they name the agencies and organizations assigned to undertake each action.

Copies of the list may be obtained by writing to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Endangered Species, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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