



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

For Release February 11, 1988

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**RED WOLF RETURNS, BUT LAST  
DUSKY SEASIDE SPARROW DIES IN 1987;  
59 NEW SPECIES ADDED TO ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST**

Listing and recovery efforts for some of the Nation's endangered species progressed in 1987, but the year's successes were tempered by the extinction of a unique bird and the necessity of bringing the last remaining wild California condor into captivity.

"Nineteen-eighty-seven has been an eventful year in our endangered species program," says Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel. "The Fish and Wildlife Service listed the second highest number of endangered and threatened species since 1979. At the same time, we have begun or completed a number of significant recovery programs for endangered species that we hope will bear fruit in years to come."

Last year, for example, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

- Listed 59 imperiled animals and plants as endangered or threatened species, ranging from the Atlantic Coast's well-known roseate tern and the giant kangaroo rat of California to little-known but colorfully-named species like Judge Tait's mussel in Alabama and Mississippi and the Central States' running buffalo clover;
- Confirmed the long-suspected extinction of a small Texas spring

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fish, the Amistad gambusia, a victim of changes in its aquatic habitat, and witnessed the death of the last dusky seaside sparrow, an aging male in captivity as the lone survivor of a race that succumbed to drastic changes in its coastal salt marsh habitat in Florida;

- Reclassified the American alligator throughout its remaining southeastern U.S. range to reflect its complete recovery; this unique reptile is back in such numbers, in fact, that three States now permit limited hunting of the species;
- Successfully released the red wolf--the first U.S. endangered species previously extinct in the wild to be returned to its former range. Using prime specimens from the nearly 80 red wolves that reside in captive breeding facilities around the United States, the Fish and Wildlife Service released four pairs of wolves on the 130,000-acre Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina. Two females have since died, one from kidney failure, the other from severe damage to its leg during a fight with another wolf; other wolves in the project appear to be adjusting to their new home;
- Removed the last known wild California condor from its range north of Los Angeles in a last-ditch effort to preserve all 27 remaining condors from further mortality. The removals are

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part of a larger program to increase condor numbers through captive breeding. Although no condor has flown the southern California coastal range since the trapping of the last majestic bird on Easter Sunday 1987, the Fish and Wildlife Service purchased the 11,000-acre Hudson Ranch last year--at less than half the cost originally estimated for this acquisition--as the nucleus of the new Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, where captive-reared condors may forage again when they are returned to the wild;

- Documented an increase of 25 pairs in the Chesapeake Bay bald eagle population, from 136 pairs in 1986 to 161 in 1987, and continued to note the best eagle reproductive rate in the Chesapeake and other areas where the eagle is rebounding since pre-DDT days;
- Achieved successful captive breeding of the black-footed ferret, in cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. After correction of a nutritional deficiency, two litters of ferrets were born in 1987, raising the total known world population from 18 to 25 animals; successful breeding in 1988 may lead to creation of a second captive population and reintroduction to the wild in the early 1990's;
- Noted the second consecutive year of successful gray wolf

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reproduction in the wild in the northern Rocky Mountains; before 1986, it had been nearly 50 years since natural reproduction had been documented in this area;

- Began establishing an experimental population of California sea otters, a threatened species, on San Nicolas Island west of Los Angeles, by capturing and transferring 60 of the marine mammals from their remaining restricted range along the central California coast.

The U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Species now stands at 993 animals and plants, of which 480 are found in the United States and its Territories, and 513 are found in foreign countries. A total of 222 recovery plans covering 254 domestic species have been approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service to guide efforts to restore populations of these animals and plants to healthy levels.

Also in 1987, the Fish and Wildlife Service combined its endangered species and habitat protection divisions into a new unit, the Division of Endangered Species and Habitat Conservation. The change mirrors a similar consolidation of its field units in these two divisions over the past several years, and now locates employees who perform related activities in Washington, DC, in one office.

A complete summary of all 1987 final and proposed endangered species listings and reclassifications is attached.

## FINAL LISTINGS -- U.S. AND FOREIGN SPECIES

### ANIMALS:

Giant kangaroo rat (California)  
Pecos bluntnose shiner (New Mexico)  
Curtus' mussel (Alabama, Mississippi)  
Judge Tait's mussel (Alabama, Mississippi)  
Marshall's mussel (Alabama, Mississippi)  
Penitent mussel (Alabama, Mississippi)  
Stirrup shell (Alabama, Mississippi)  
Cave crayfish (Arkansas)  
Waccamaw silverside (North Carolina)  
Mt. Graham red squirrel (Arizona)  
Florida scrub jay (Florida)  
Flattened musk turtle (Alabama)  
Blackside dace (Kentucky, Tennessee)  
Alabama red-bellied turtle (Alabama)  
Audubon's crested caracara (Florida)  
Gopher tortoise (Alabama/west of Tombigbee,  
Mobile Rivers; Mississippi, Louisiana)  
Puerto Rican crested toad (Puerto Rico)  
Little Colorado spinedace (Arizona)  
Bay checkerspot butterfly (California)  
Cape Fear shiner (North Carolina)  
Pawnee montane skipper (Colorado)  
Hualapai Mexican vole (Arizona)  
Black-capped vireo (Kansas, Oklahoma,  
Texas, Mexico)  
Roseate tern (Endangered from Carolinas  
northward; threatened south to Caribbean)  
Blue-tailed mole skink (Florida)  
Sand skink (Florida)

### PLANTS:

Missouri bladder-pod (Missouri)  
Santa Cruz cypress (California)  
Prairie bush-clover (Illinois, Iowa,  
Minnesota, Wisconsin)  
Palo de Ramon (Puerto Rico)  
Wheeler's peperomia (Puerto Rico)  
Highlands scrub hypericum (Florida)  
Carter's mustard (Florida)  
Scrub plum (Florida)  
Snakeroot (Florida)  
Pygmy fringe tree (Florida)  
Papery whitlow-wort (Florida)  
Wireweed (Florida)  
Hyan lagu (Guam, Marianas)  
White bladder-pod (Texas)  
Scrub lupine (Florida)  
Wide-leaf warea (Florida)  
Running buffalo clover (Illinois,  
Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri,  
Ohio, West Virginia)  
Jesup's milk-vetch (New Hampshire,  
Vermont)  
Rough-leaved loosestrife (North  
Carolina, South Carolina)  
Elfin tree fern (Puerto Rico)  
Geocarpon minimum (Arkansas, Missouri)  
Cook's holly (Puerto Rico)  
Sacramento Mountains thistle (New  
Mexico)  
Blowout penstemon (Nebraska)  
San Rafael cactus (Utah)  
Slender-horned spineflower (California)  
Santa Ana woolly-star (California)  
Toad-flax cress (Utah)  
Welsh's milkweed (Utah)  
Florida bonamia (Florida)  
Heliotrope milk-vetch (Utah)  
Heller's blazingstar (North Carolina)  
Higuero de Sierra (Puerto Rico)

PROPOSED LISTINGS -- U.S. AND FOREIGN SPECIES

ANIMALS:

California freshwater shrimp (California)  
Louisiana pearlshell (Louisiana)  
Mexican long-nosed bat (New Mexico,  
Texas, Mexico, Central America)  
Sanborn's long-nosed bat (New Mexico,  
Texas, Mexico, Central America)  
Tipton kangaroo rat (California)  
Shasta crayfish (California)  
Colorado River squawfish (Arizona)  
Lost River sucker (California, Oregon)  
Shortnose sucker (California, Oregon)  
James River spiny mussel (Virginia)  
Clover Valley speckled dace (Nevada)  
Independence Valley speckled dace  
(Nevada)  
Alabama cave shrimp (Alabama)  
Boulder darter (Alabama, Tennessee)  
Stephen's kangaroo rat (California)  
Visayan deer (Philippines)

PLANTS:

Relict trillium (Alabama, Georgia,  
South Carolina)  
Little amphiantus (Alabama, Georgia,  
South Carolina)  
Black spored quillwort (Georgia,  
South Carolina)  
Mat-forming quillwort (Georgia)  
Bariaco (Puerto Rico)  
Aleutian shield fern (Alaska)  
White-haired goldenrod (Kentucky)  
Nigua (Puerto Rico)  
Large-fruited sand-verbena (Texas)  
Chisos Mountain hedgehog cactus (Texas,  
Mexico)  
Daphnopsis hellerana (Puerto Rico)  
Cumberland sandwort (Kentucky,  
Tennessee)  
Kearney's blue-star (Arizona)  
Mathis spiderling (Texas)  
Sacramento prickly poppy (New Mexico)  
Pitcher's thistle (Illinois, Indiana,  
Michigan, Wisconsin, Canada)  
Lakeside daisy (Illinois, Ohio, Canada)  
Houghton's goldenrod (Michigan, Canada)  
Hinckley oak (Texas)  
Fassett's locoweed (Wisconsin)  
Dwarf lake iris (Michigan, Wisconsin,  
Canada)  
Mead's milkweed (Iowa, Illinois,  
Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Wisconsin)  
Mohr's Barbara's button (Alabama, Georgia)  
Sandplain gerardia (Connecticut,  
Maine, Maryland, New York, Rhode Island)  
Solanum drymophilum (Puerto Rico)

**FINAL RECLASSIFICATIONS AND DELISTINGS -- U.S. AND FOREIGN**

<u>SPECIES:</u>	<u>RANGE:</u>	<u>ACTION:</u>
Tinian monarch flycatcher	Marianas	"Endangered" to "Threatened"
American alligator	Southeast U.S.	Reclassification to "Threatened by Similarity of Appearance" in Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina)
Amistad gambusia	Texas	Delist (extinction)
Nile crocodile	Zimbabwe	Reclassification to "Threatened" for ranched populations only

**PROPOSED RECLASSIFICATIONS AND DELISTINGS -- U.S. AND FOREIGN**

<u>SPECIES:</u>	<u>RANGE:</u>	<u>ACTION:</u>
Gila trout	Arizona, New Mexico	"Endangered" to "Threatened"
Alabama cavefish	Alabama	"Threatened" to "Endangered"
Yellowfin madtom	Tennessee, Virginia	Experimental population designation