

# ENDANGERED *Species* BULLETIN

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*When we think about biological diversity, the plant and animal treasures hidden away in tropical rainforests or the unusual species that evolve on isolated islands readily come to mind. It may surprise many people that the freshwater systems of the southeastern United States contain an extraordinary diversity of aquatic animals. The richest temperate freshwater fish fauna in the world, for example, can be found in the Southeast. Even so, “new” species are still being described as scientists learn more about the complexity of the regions’ biological resources. At the same time, however, habitat alterations, water pollution, invasive nonnative species, and other problems threaten to turn this center of diversity into a center of extinction. Read inside about efforts to save “the jewels in our waters.”*



Corel Corp. photo

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**On the Cover**  
*Cambarus dubius*, a brilliantly colored species of crayfish, is part of the rich diversity of aquatic wildlife native to the Southeastern United States.  
Photo by Guenter Schuster

**Opposite page**  
The aquatic wildlife of the Southeast supports a variety of other animals, such as the raccoon.  
Corel Corp. photo

The Endangered Species Bulletin welcomes manuscripts on a wide range of topics related to endangered species. We are particularly interested in news about recovery, habitat conservation plans, and cooperative ventures. Please contact the Editor before preparing a manuscript. We cannot guarantee publication.

We also welcome your comments and ideas. Please e-mail them to us at [esb@fws.gov](mailto:esb@fws.gov).

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