



## Amur Leopard

The Amur Leopard is a solitary big cat found in southeastern Russia and northern China. They also go by other names, including The Far East leopard, the Manchurian leopard, and the Korean leopard. They are marked as **critically endangered** due to poaching and habitat loss. As of 2019, a little more than 84 individuals remain in the wild and 170 to 180 live in captivity. There is a current breeding program active which introduces captive bred individuals into the wild in the effort to prevent inbreeding depression.



## Aye-Aye

The Aye-Aye is a type of lemur native to the island of Madagascar. It's known by their use of percussive foraging, which involves the aye-aye tapping on tree trunks to find grubs and insects. They then gnaw a hole and pull out their prey with their special long middle finger to retrieve them. Unfortunately, they are the subject of superstition as they are viewed as omens and evil and death and thus, culled. That along with habitat loss is what grants them their **endangered** status. There is currently an active captive breeding program which is helping keep their numbers up.



## **Babirusa**

The babirusa, also known as the 'deer-pig', is a species of swine found on the Indonesian islands of Sulawesi, Togian, Sula, and Buru. They are known for their canine teeth/tusks, which are found on the males and sometimes females, though they are noticeably small for females. For the males, these tusks grow out of the tops of their jaws, which then pierce the skin and curl around to the forehead. Sometimes these tusks continue to grow and will cause death if they grow long enough to pierce the skull. Though the babirusa is a protected species, they still face threats due to poaching and loss of habitat. All four species is marked as either **vulnerable or endangered**.



## **Black Footed Ferret**

The black footed ferret, also known as the American polecat or prairie dog hunter, is a species of mustelid found on the prairies of central North America. They suffered greatly during the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to the loss of their main prey, the prairie dog. Prairie dogs were routinely shot/poisoned by settlers as vermin, and the sylvatic plague decimated the rest of the population. They were considered extinct in the wild in 1987. However, a captive-breeding program launched by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 1991 saw the return of this species. As of 2019, 350 individuals are now living in the wild, with more being introduced each year. They are currently classified as **endangered** until their populations increases further.



## Copper Head

The copper head is a species of venomous snake (pit vipers) found in North America. They are well known for bedding down in fallen leaves and wait for prey, typically rodents, insects, and amphibians, to pass by before striking. Their venom isn't considered completely dangerous to a human, but it does cause extreme pain, sickness, and in some cases, an allergic reaction. Antivenom is available to relieve these symptoms. They are reluctant to bite and often freeze, relying on their excellent camouflage to avoid danger. Most bites occur when a person, not seeing a copperhead, step on them, causing the snake to defend itself. There are 5 species in North America, and currently enjoys a **least concern** conservation status.



## Domestic Pig

The domestic pig is a type of swine found all over the world, with hundreds of different shapes, colors, and size. Pigs are remarkably intelligent and can learn tricks and be trained to perform tasks. Perhaps the oldest of tasks, is truffle hunting, where the pig uses it's strong, but sensitive nose, to find and dig up the fungi. Their biological, physiological and anatomical similarities to humans makes them one of the most valuable animals used for medical research. Pigs have mutations to their nicotinic acetylcholine receptor, which protects them from neurotoxic snake venom. Pigs also make for popular pets with specific breeds for this purpose. They are considered as **least concern**, due to their high numbers, though some heritage breeds face extinction.



## Domestic Cow

Domestic cows are a species of cattle that were domesticated as early as the neolithic era and are important to human history and development. Cows are related to yak, bison, and buffalo. Cows come in four different classes of use. Work, Dairy, Meat, and Entertainment. Work cattle (known as oxen) are used for many tasks, such as plowing fields and hauling loads. Bulls (male cattle) and Steers (neutered male cattle) are routinely used in entertainment such as rodeos and bullfights, but also can participate in pulling contests and other contests of strength. Cows can also be kept as pets and can become quite tame after extended interactions with humans. Like pigs, cows are of **least concern** conservation wise, but some heritage breeds face extinction.



## Domestic Cat

The domestic cat is a species of small feline originating from the continent of Africa and were domesticated nearly ten thousand years ago. Cats are unique in that they domesticated themselves as they entered a mutually beneficial symbiosis with humans. Cats were mainly kept around hunters of vermin, but in time their companionship was also appreciated. Many breeds are still considered close to their original ancestors, with only color being the difference. Cats are bred into all shapes and sizes, from the ancient Egyptian Mau to the lap cat Persians. Cats however, are responsible for the near extinction of several native species of animals in other countries after being introduced and abandoned. Cats are one of the most popular types of pets in the world, besides dogs. They are of **least concern** conservation wise and can be found everywhere on nearly ever continent of the world.



## Giant Anteater

The Giant Anteater is a large insect eating mammal found in Central and South America that can grow up to six to eight feet long. They walk on their knuckles to protect their long and sharp claws, which they use to tear open ant and termite mounds, as well as to defend themselves. With their long tongues and sticky saliva, they can eat 35,000 ants and termites a day. They have no teeth, but hard plates which they use to crush up their prey into a past for easier digestion. They are considered quite dangerous as a single swipe of their fore paws can kill a jaguar and they will defend themselves and their young. Their current conservation status is listed as **vulnerable**, due to deforestation and habitat loss.



## Giraffe

There are currently eight species of giraffe found all across the continent of Africa. The giraffe is the tallest living mammal in the world along with being the biggest ruminant. They are related to the okapi, which is often called the 'forest giraffe'. Giraffes are known for their spots, with shape and color being different for each species. No two patterns are the same, and the spot patterns are used as identification for individuals, much like fingerprints. Giraffes also only sleep for a maximum of thirty minutes a day, sleeping only for a minute or two at a time. Different species have different conservation status, but all can be considered as **Vulnerable** due to poaching and habitat loss.



## Grey Seal

Grey Seals are a sea dwelling mammal found on both shores of the North Atlantic Ocean. Along with other pinnipeds, they are semi-aquatic and need to breathe air. They converge on the shores for breeding season, where they raise their pups. They are listed as **endangered** and are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act in North America. However, seals come in competition with fisherman, and either get shot or drown in trawl nets. They were nearly driven to extinction due to hunting (for meat, oil, and skin) or culling to protect fisheries. After the passing of the MMPA in 1971, the grey seal has continued to recover in North America. The UK has similar protections in place, though there is pressure to allow culling again to protect fish stocks.



## Hawksbill Sea Turtle

The Hawksbill sea turtle is a species of marine reptile found in the tropical reefs of the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic Oceans. Being very migratory, it isn't that uncommon to not only find them in the open ocean, but also lagoons and mangrove swamps in estuaries. They mainly feed on sea sponges, but also prey on jellyfish and eat algae. Females rely on beaches in order to reproduce, digging holes in the sand where she'll lay up to 140 eggs. She covers up the eggs and leaves, letting them incubate for two months before the baby turtles hatch, dig themselves out, and join the ocean. Hawksbill sea turtles are listed as **Critically Endangered**, due to loss of nesting sites, pollution, poaching, and...plastic bags. Sea turtles often mistake plastic bags in the ocean as jelly fish, which they then eat and cannot expel, causing the turtle to die from blockage. There are current efforts to captive breed and release young turtles, though it is slow going due to how long it takes for turtles to mature to breeding age.



### **Hummingbird (Ruby Throated-Male)**

Ruby throated hummingbirds is a species of hummingbird native to North America. They are sexually dimorphic, with males having iridescent tail feathers and a bright red patch on their throats. Females lack the red patch and have white throats and bellies. Hummingbirds are known for sipping nectar from flowers, but they use the sugar as energy to catch small flies and spiders. Ruby throated hummingbirds migrate during winter and nest in Mexico and Central America to wait out the cold. Hummingbirds of this species are classified as **least concern**, but due to the loss of habitat, many face hardships during the long fall migration. People can help by providing hummingbird feeders with dye free sugar water along with fresh water.



### Indian Peafowl (male)

The Indian peafowl, also known as the common peafowl, and blue peafowl, is a large bird native to the Indian subcontinent. They have been introduced to other parts of the world and are highly adaptive. Peafowl are often kept as pets, and are sometimes raised for meat, but mostly harvested for the beautiful feathers of the male. The male, known as a peacock, is brightly colored with a long train of tail feathers which is spread to woo females. Females, peahens, are more duller in color and only have small bits of color in their necks. Peacocks are aggressive and territorial and are known to attack their own reflections. They are a protected species in India as a national symbol and are classified as **least concern**.



## Long Nosed Bat

The Greater Long-Nosed bat, also known as the Mexican long-nosed bat, is a species of migratory bat found in the South-western United States and Mexico. Long nosed bats feed on nectar and are an important pollinator for species of agave plants and cacti. They are a sensitive species, and are prone to being disturbed by human activity. They tend to roost in old mines and caves and avoid humans. They are currently listed as **endangered** due to habitat loss. They need large open fields of flowering plants to feed, which is quickly vanishing due to development. There is an ongoing effort to plant more agave along their native range and leaving them to bloom so they can feed.



## Maned Wolf

The Maned Wolf looks like a cross between a fox and a wolf, but is actually neither. Maned wolves are the only members of the genus *Chrysocyon*, meaning "golden dog". They are the largest canid in South America, which is the only place in the world they can be found. Maned wolves are omnivores, and are actually an important seed distributor in their savanna habitats. They are solitary animals and seldom seen. They are notoriously shy, and avoid humans and livestock. They are most known for their long, stilt-like legs, which they use to give them an edge in the tall grasses of their hunting grounds. They are currently listed as **Near Threatened**, and could change if human development continue to encroach on their lands.



## Numbat

The Numbat is a little marsupial native to Australia. They are insectivores and their diet consists almost entirely of termites. Like anteaters, they use their long sticky tongues to catch their prey. Although they are sometimes called the banded anteater, they don't prey on ants. They don't have teeth, but blunt pegs used to scrape the termites off their tongues so they can be swallowed. Like many Australian animals, numbats suffered tremendously from introduced, non-native species. Red foxes and Feral cats have decimated the populations along with habitat loss. They are listed as **endangered**, and less than 1500 individuals are left in the wild. Captive breeding programs have successfully reintroduced the species to Southern Australia and continues to give the species a life line.



## Orca

The Orca, also commonly known as the Killer Whale, is a species of predatory cetacean found in all oceans and most seas. Orcas are apex predators, and prey on seals, fish (including sharks), and birds (mostly penguins). Orcas are highly intelligent and live in family matrilineal groups led by the eldest female, the matriarch. Each family has their own unique sets of vocalizations that are not found in other groups of orcas, which are called dialects. Due to this, scientists believe that Orcas have a culture which is passed down through offspring. There is **not enough data** to classify their conservation status, but Orcas are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act in North America. The loss of prey due to pollution and human intervention makes survival for this species in some parts of the world difficult.



### **Pallas's Cat**

The Pallas' cat is a small, wild feline who are native to the grasslands and mountain steppes of Central Asia. They can also be found in Southern Asia, such as India, and parts of Southern Russia in small populations. Being about the same size as an average domestic cat, Pallas's cats prey on small rodents and birds. They are solitary and only come together to mate, in which the female raises her kittens alone. Their thick dense fur is camouflage for the dense rock and scrubs of their typical habitats. Pallas's cat were once routinely hunted for their fur, which is currently banned in all but Mongolia. They still face threat due to being accidentally caught in traps meant for other species of furred mammal, accidentally shot due to mistaken identity, and harassed by herding dogs. They are currently listed as **near threatened**, but since the Pallas cat does not do well in captivity, captive breeding efforts have been slow.



## Przewalski's Horse

The Przewalski Horse, also known as the Mongolian wild horse, is the only species of truly wild horse left and is found in Mongolia and steppes of central Asia. They thrive in places absent from humans, and some specimens have even been found living in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. They behave like typical domestic horses, living in family herds protected by the stallion. A conservation success story, The Przewalski Horse was once completely extinct in the wild, with the only living specimens kept in captivity in zoos. At one time there were only 12 individuals left in the entire world. Their decline was due to over hunting. During WW2, the Germans occupying the Askania Nova region of Ukraine wiped out the entire population in the area. Due to captive breeding and introduction, there are now over 1500 individuals, with over 300 of them back in the wild. They have been upgraded to **Endangered** status and are still currently being monitored.



### Queen Alexandra's Birdwing (Male)

The Queen Alexandra's Birdwing is the largest species of butterfly in the world. They live in the forests of the Oro Province in eastern Papua New Guinea and are widely sought after for collections. Birdwings are sexually dimorphic, with males having bright blue and rounder wings, where females are brown with different shaped wings. Males are highly territorial and are known to harass birds out of their territories. Individuals are poisonous, due to the consumption of aristolochic acid rich vines as larvae. The butterflies tend to fly higher than most other species, causing earlier collectors to shoot them down with shotguns. The butterflies are currently listed as **endangered** due to poaching, and international trade is illegal. However, they are popular on the black market, with specimens fetching between eight to ten thousand dollars each.



### **Red Kangaroo (pool toy)**

It's a pool toy. There's no conservation status. **Please play with your pool toys responsibly and swim with a buddy.**



## Rhesus Macaque

The Rhesus Macaque is a type of old world monkey native to South, Central, and Southeast Asia. They live in large, family troops and are subject to the strict hierarchy system within it. Primarily herbivores, they also will eat invertebrates when given the chance. Due to their high intelligence and biological similarity to humans, rhesus macaques are frequently used in medical and biological research. They were key to developing the polio and small pox vaccine. Wild macaques sometimes come into conflict with humans due to the expansion of human settlements, and are known to be thieves of food. Rhesus macaques are listed as **Least Concern**, and currently have a stable and well spread population.



## Striped Skunk

The Striped Skunk is a highly adaptive mammal native to most of North America. Most people know about the special musk glands a skunk possesses, that can spray a stinging and strong smelling fluid to deter predators. Due to this, they do not have many natural predators besides birds of prey. They are opportunistic omnivores, though their diet mainly consists of insects. Some people keep skunks as pets, noting their strong personalities and intelligence. Unfortunately, skunks are very susceptible to rabies, and is considered one of the four main carriers of the disease. They are listed as **Least Concern**, as they tend to adapt around humans than allow themselves to be pushed out.



## Werewolf

Werewolves are a popular fictional creature that has roots in nearly every type of human civilization. There always seem to be tales of humans changing into beasts in the light of the full moon to savage those unfortunate enough to come across them. Ways to become vary by culture, but the most common involve wearing a garment made of wolf skin, being bitten by a current werewolf, a family curse, or making a pact with a spirit or demon. Not all cultures view werewolves as evil. The Irish werewolf, known as the faoladh or conroicht, were known as protectors of the wounded and lost children and other persons. The Scottish werewolf, the Wulver, will leave fish on the windowsills of hungry families. The tales are as varied as they are people, but still remain popular today.





### **Wood Duck (Male)**

One of North America's most colorful waterfowl, the Wood Duck drakes show off their beautiful plumage to attract mates. Drakes, while brightly colored, are different than the females of the species, which are duller and muted in color. Females are known for making their nests in hollows high in trees for the safety of her eggs. Once the eggs hatch, the ducklings must jump from the nest in order to reach the water. Because of this, you often find nests situated above water, giving the ducklings a much softer landing. Wood ducks are omnivores and find their food on the surface of the water. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the species was hunted down to small scattered populations. Their plumage was very popular in hats of the day, and were also eaten. At the passing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the species has recovered dramatically. They are listed as **Least Concern** and continue to multiply.