

★ Most wanted ★ LOST SPECIES

Global Wildlife Conservation's campaign The Search for Lost Species is on the hunt for animals unseen for years; feared extinct. Scientists have compiled a list of 1,200 species reported missing and need help finding them. Here are just a few...

Bullneck seahorse
(*Hippocampus minotaur*)
This tiny sea creature has never actually been spotted

This pygmy seahorse has never been seen in the wild. Probably living in sand beds off the southeast coast of Australia, it is only known because of samples collected by trawlers.

"They are important flagships for some of the most imperilled ecosystems worldwide"

GWC communications director Robin Moore

Namdapha flying squirrel
(*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*)
The missing squirrel with an inbuilt parachute

With reddish fur and a white underside, this tree-dwelling species is thought to live in northeast India. Only one specimen of this animal has ever been recorded, found in 1981.

Omiltemi cottontail
(*Sylvilagus insonus*)
This rabbit is as elusive as the Easter Bunny

Found only in a small area of Mexico, this rare rabbit vanished in the 1900s until a skin was recovered in 1998. Deforestation is likely responsible for its rarity and possible extinction.

Pondicherry shark
(*Carcharhinus hemiodon*)
Its small size makes this shark even harder to find

Growing not much longer than a metre (3.3ft), this extremely rare shark has serrated teeth and black-tipped fins. Fishing pressure in the Indo-Pacific is probably the reason it hasn't been seen since 1979.

Wallace's giant bee
(*Megachile pluto*)
The world's largest bee lives as an uninvited tenant

First described by Alfred Russel Wallace, this 38-millimetre-long (1.5 inch) insect takes up residence inside termite nests. Six nests were found on an Indonesian island in 1981, but this was the last sighting.

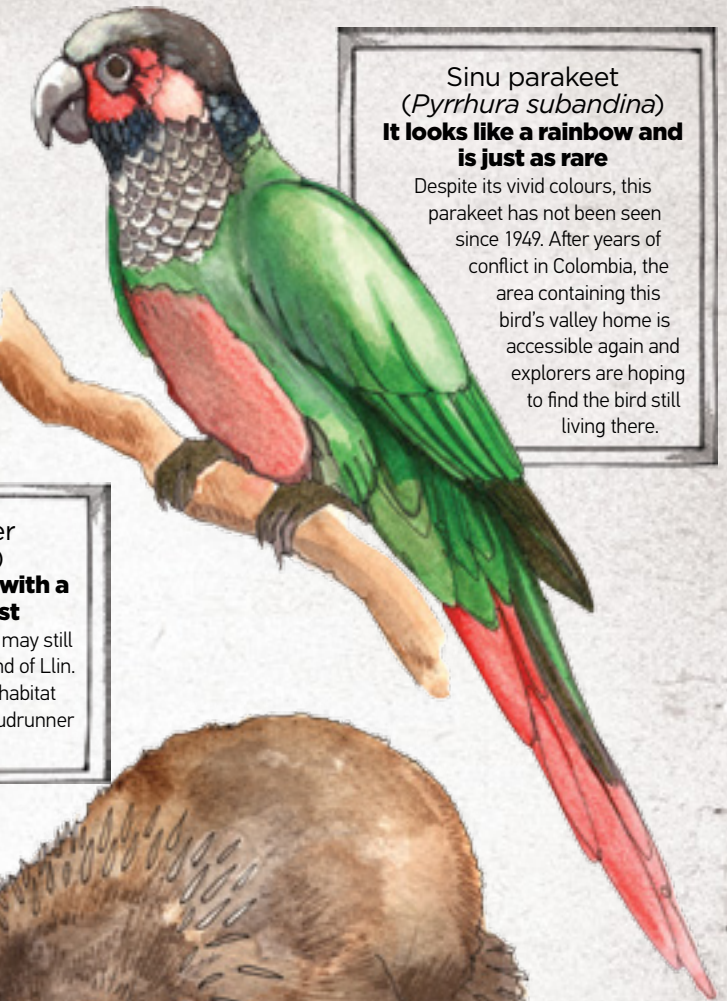


Llin island cloudrunner
(*Crateromys paulus*)
The mythical-sounding rat with a suitably mysterious past

Bushy-tailed with a fluffy coat, this rat may still live in tree hollows on the Filipino island of Llin. The island has suffered large-scale habitat loss, and the only specimen of the cloudrunner was recorded in 1953.

Attenborough's long-beaked echidna
(*Zaglossus attenboroughi*)
There are signs of this peculiar mammal but no sightings

Named after Sir David himself, the spiny egg-laying mammal was thought to be extinct for decades until signs of echidna activity were discovered in New Guinea in 2007.



Sinu parakeet
(*Pyrrhura subandina*)
It looks like a rainbow and is just as rare

Despite its vivid colours, this parakeet has not been seen since 1949. After years of conflict in Colombia, the area containing this bird's valley home is accessible again and explorers are hoping to find the bird still living there.



Pink-headed duck
(*Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*)
The duck that's hard to miss but proving hard to find

Once widespread in the swamps of Southeast Asia, this large duck has not been spotted since 1949. Pigments in the plumage produce the distinctive colouration of the male's head and bill.



Sierra Leone crab
(*Afrihelphusa leonensis*)
People may have walked past this long-legged crab

Missing for over 60 years, this brightly coloured and oddly-shaped crab may simply have been overlooked as it lives in trees and caves. Scientists are aiming to provide the first photo of the elusive creature.

Join the hunt

WWW.LOSTSPECIES.ORG
The Search for Lost Species is fundraising to send teams of scientists and explorers around the world in search of the top 25 missing species. Some of these expeditions will be working from descriptions alone, as several species have never been photographed.