

ENDANGERED EARTH



WILD TRAVELERS



On Jan. 30, 2021, a teenage wolf from Oregon named OR-93 entered California a few hundred miles south of his pack's turf in search of a fresh beginning, wild adventure and a mate. The data from his radio collar recorded an epic journey: the odyssey of a wayfaring wolf looking for a new home.

By February OR-93 was moving through territory belonging to the Lassen pack — one of only two known wolf packs in California — and avoided potentially dangerous run-ins with rival male wolves. From there he kept going south, shocking biologists by traveling more than 1,000 miles. Across more than a dozen counties, he roamed over snowy ranges, deep forests and almond groves, skirting the edges of human development. He crossed major highways and showed up as far south as the exurban fringes of Los Angeles in Ventura County — the first wolf in 200 or 300 years to set foot anywhere close to LA.

OR-93's travels brought hope to the hearts of those who read about him. Here at the Center we monitored his movements avidly, at once delighted and concerned. We keep a close watch on the Pacific Coast's wolves. We've fought to defend them in Oregon for years, and in California, in 2014, secured their legal protection under the state's Endangered Species Act.

Farther inland, a few miles south of the U.S.-Mexico border — where construction on Trump's wall had ceased only months before — a trail camera picked up another long-distance wanderer: a young male jaguar named El Bonito. While three mature male jaguars have appeared on remote cameras north of the border in Arizona since 2015, the presence of this very young cat suggested that his mother, a mature female — and the breeding range of the species — might extend up to the border itself. Nobody knows how far north the mother jaguar had come, but the Center was inspired by news of the youngster.

Jaguars were protected as endangered in the United States in 1997 in response to a Center campaign, and later we won more than 760,000 acres of protected critical habitat for these beautiful spotted cats in southern Arizona and New Mexico.

Sadly, in November the pilgrim wolf OR-93 was hit by a vehicle along Interstate 5. That sudden ending to his story is proof that there's so much more work we need to do to make sure those who follow him don't suffer the same fate.

At the Center we live by these lights — the hope of a world made safer and more alive for wild creatures, as well as for all of us.

Thank you for staying with us to see it come true.

Kieran Suckling
Executive Director

2021 WHAT WE WON

ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Restored protections that had been stripped away under Trump to more than 1,000 migratory bird species.
- Banned trapping and poisoning of wildlife on New Mexico public lands and prevented federal funding of mountain lion slaughter in Colorado.
- Secured federal protection for 21 species, including Sierra Nevada red foxes, Bartram’s stonecrop, Franklin’s bumblebees, Atlantic pigtoe mussels and seven species of turtles.
- Won protection on nearly 195 million acres of critical habitat for 33 endangered species in 2021, including yellow-billed cuckoos in the Southwest, Humboldt martens in California and Oregon, and candy darters in the Southeast.

PUBLIC LANDS

- Secured a victory reinstating protections for greater sage grouse by banning hard-rock mining across 10 million acres of the bird’s habitat.
- Helped win restoration of rules preventing road-building and large-scale logging of old-growth temperate rainforest in the 17 million-acre Tongass National Forest in Alaska.
- Forged agreements to ban destructive cattle grazing from rivers and streams throughout five national forests in Arizona and New Mexico, home to numerous endangered and threatened species.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- With allies, won a court victory forcing the EPA to limit ozone pollution in Weld County — a major blow to Colorado’s oil and gas industry.
- Defended farmworker health by forcing the EPA to vacate the Trump administration’s approval of the harmful insecticide aldicarb for use on Florida citrus.
- With allies, achieved an agreement forcing JBS-Swift Beef, the world’s largest meatpacking company, to address unlawful pollution from its Greeley, Colorado, slaughterhouse.

CLIMATE LAW INSTITUTE

- After a decade of campaigning by the Center, Gov. Newsom announced a ban on fracking in California by 2024.
- Completed first steps in the Endangered Species Act protection process for emperor penguins, gravely threatened by sea-ice loss driven by the climate crisis.
- Led legal efforts pressing President Biden to declare a national climate emergency and comply with the law by denying permits for fossil fuel projects.

ENERGY JUSTICE

- Took federal legal action to stop utilities from forcing ratepayers to fund trade groups working against clean energy; gained ground on the issue in a North Carolina court.
- Injected energy justice into federal climate legislation by successfully excluding uncaptured gas from the definition of “clean” energy and gaining direct cash rebates for community and rooftop solar.
- Publicly exposed the corruption of utilities receiving billions in federal tax bailouts while disconnecting millions of households during COVID-19. Helped secure over \$8 billion in federal aid to stop the utility-shutoff crisis.

URBAN WILDLANDS

- Halted the Northlake project, a destructive development in Los Angeles County that threatened rare wildlife and pristine streams.
- Reached an agreement securing millions of dollars for permanent habitat protection, electric-vehicle subsidies and future conservation projects in Placer County.
- Through a courtroom victory and years of advocacy, helped create Tesla Park, home to red-legged frogs and kit foxes, in a place originally proposed for off-road vehicle use.

OCEANS

- Won a challenge against Hilcorp’s offshore oil-drilling activities in Alaska’s Cook Inlet due to noise harms to endangered beluga whales.
- Prevented the restart of offshore oil and gas platforms off the Santa Barbara coast through advocacy that resulted in Exxon being denied a permit to truck oil.
- Resolved a lawsuit challenging an expansion of Seattle Harbor that will better protect endangered orcas from vessel noise and restore salmon habitat.

POPULATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Analyzed 200+ environmental organizations to learn how they address population pressure and family-planning solutions and released recommendations to improve their messaging.
- Created the first population and consumption program for Girl Scouts, including patch design.
- Advocated for cities to include meat and dairy reduction in climate action plans and other municipal food policies.

INTERNATIONAL

- Filed groundbreaking legal petitions to ban imports of wild birds and mammals to prevent the spread of wildlife-borne diseases like COVID-19 and protect animals from wildlife trade.
- Launched lawsuits to win legal protection for nine imperiled species threatened by wildlife trade, including giraffes, leopards, and multiple birds and butterflies.
- Formally requested U.S. sanctions against Mexico for driving the vaquita, a species of porpoise with only 10 animals remaining, to near extinction.

CARNIVORE CONSERVATION

- Filed an emergency petition, with allies, leading to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s announcement that Northern Rockies wolves may once again warrant Endangered Species Act protection.
- Won several legal victories to protect grizzly bears from habitat-destroying projects, such as a mine proposed in Montana’s Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.
- By rallying our membership to voice opposition, convinced Washington’s Fish and Wildlife Commission to suspend the proposed 2022 spring bear-hunting season.



Illustration of Bachman's warbler by Louis Agassiz Fuertes

More of the world's species are vanishing before our eyes than at any other time in human history.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently declared 23 species extinct, from a tiny catfish and several colorful mussels to spectacular birds. Without swift and powerful action, we risk losing a million more species in the coming decades to the extinction crisis.

Here are stories of seven of the lost 23.

1. **Bachman's warbler** was a neotropical songbird who summered in forests in the U.S. Southeast and wintered in Cuba. Due primarily to habitat loss from conversion of wetlands and logging of upland forests, the tiny bird declined dramatically in the first half of the 20th century. It was last seen in the early 1960s.
2. Ohio used to be home to a small, shy catfish called the **Scioto madtom**. By day, it hid under rocks and vegetation. At night, it came out to quietly feed along the stream bottom. Only 18 individuals were ever collected — so the species was extremely rare. It was last seen in 1957 and went extinct because of agricultural runoff and silt that spilled into Big Darby Creek. This very special habitat and its wild inhabitants are still threatened by sprawl and pollution from the city of Columbus.

3. So stunning was the **ivory-billed woodpecker** that it was sometimes referred to as “the Lord God Bird.” The third-largest woodpecker in the world, it once flew in the old-growth forests of 13 Southeast states. Often it could be seen picking beetles out of dead and dying trees or soaring through the forests with its 30-inch wingspan. It had a nasal-sounding call some compared to the sound of a tin horn or clarinet. The last verified sighting was in 1944 in an area known as the Singer Tract. Pleas made to the Chicago Mill and Lumber Company, which owned the timber rights to the land there, were ignored and the area was logged — driving the Lord God bird to extinction.

4. The **Kaua'i 'ō'ō** had a distinctive, bell-like call that cut through the forests of the Hawaiian island of Kaua'i. This black-and-yellow songbird was common in the late 1800s and considered rare by the 1920s. It ultimately went extinct because of habitat destruction and the introduction of rats, pigs and mosquitos. The Kaua'i 'ō'ō was the last surviving member of the Mohoidae family, a group of honey-eating birds, and represents the only complete extinction of an entire avian family in modern times. Its call was last heard in 1987.
5. The **flat pigtoe mussel** inhabited the Tombigbee River in Mississippi and Alabama. It had a preference for clean, fast-flowing water and tended toward shallow stretches of the river, where the bottom was silt free. The flat pigtoe was just over a couple of inches across, with dark lines on its outer shell and blueish-white inner shells. It went extinct because of dams: The construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee waterway lock and dam system, whose construction began in 1972, sealed its fate. It was last seen in 1980.
6. The **little Mariana fruit bat** wasn't all that little, actually — it had a 2-foot wingspan. It loved to dine on tropical fruits. Also known as a flying fox, this bat lived on the island of Guam and was notable for the gold color on its neck and yellowish-brown fur on its head. It was last seen in 1968 and went extinct because of habitat loss, invasive brown treesnakes and hunting.
7. Small but mighty, the inch-long **San Marcos gambusia** made its home in a half-mile-long, slow-flowing section of the upper San Marcos River in Texas. Unlike many other fish, the San Marcos gambusia gave birth to live young rather than laying eggs. It was last seen in the wild in 1983, driven extinct by our overuse of its water.

Read about the other recently lost species at the Center's Medium page:

<https://biodiv.us/3C1VneE>.

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Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Colorado. Patrick Myers / NPS

The Center for Biological Diversity was founded to secure a future for all species, great and small, hovering on the brink of extinction. In our more than three decades saving life on Earth, we've locked in protections — and a future — for more than 720 species and more than half a billion acres of wildlife habitat. Help us continue this extraordinary legacy by joining the Owls Club.

By leaving a legacy gift through a bequest, or making the Center a beneficiary of your retirement plan or other estate plan, you'll be supporting the fight to save endangered wildlife for generations to come. To learn more about your legacy giving options, please call (646) 770-7206 or email owlsclub@biologicaldiversity.org.

BiologicalDiversity.org/OwlsClub

ENDANGERED EARTH

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CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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