

Bear Fur, Feathers and Ferns #3

Name one animal that has become extinct in the last 100 years and one animal that is currently endangered. Explain what caused their declines.

Extinct: Passenger pigeon



Once one of the most populous birds in North America, passenger pigeons could fly as fast as 60 mph, according to the Audubon Society.

Their numbers were wiped out after Europeans arrived in the states and hunted them for meat. In 1914, the last known surviving member of the species, Martha, died at the Cincinnati Zoo.

Endangered:

Whooping crane (*Grus americana*)



In 1938, the first year a population survey was conducted; only 29 whooping cranes remained in the wild.

Three years later, only 16 were left.

Hunting and reduction of their wetland habitat had altered the population.

Today, there are over 400 birds, thanks in large part to breeding programs. Captive rearing and reintroduction have established two wild populations in Florida, one of which has been taught to migrate to Wisconsin.