

# DQ CLASS INVESTIGATES ENDANGERED ANIMALS

Which Animals Are In Trouble?

April 2007

## ECOLE JOE CLARK SCHOOL WELCOMES CPAWS

Through the efforts of Mrs. Hunter, the grade three and four students of Ecole Joe Clark School had the opportunity to welcome CPAWS representatives.

CPAWS stands for Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. Their mission is to establish new parks and protected areas and ensure that nature comes first in their management. If you are passionate about nature you can join one of the thirteen chapters and get actively involved.

Ms. Syslak and Ms. Kiel discussed with the students how species become endangered, why extinction is a problem and most importantly, what to do to solve the problem. The students



Can you guess what animals these objects represent?



were surprised to learn that over five hundred species are on Canada's list of endangered species. Did you know that 'habitat loss', is now the main factor that puts species in North America and world wide in danger of extinction?

The students participated in the Action Challenge for Nature by creating posters to raise awareness and collected one hundred sixteen dollars to donate to CPAWS.

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### Important Words:

**Threatened:** a species that may soon become endangered.

**Endangered:** a species that is almost extinct because there are only a few birds or animals left.

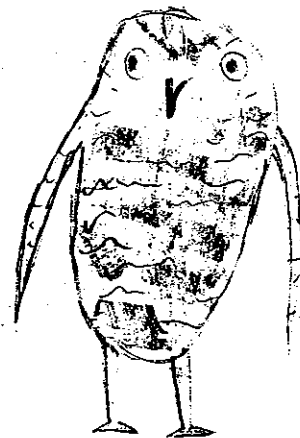
**Extinct:** a species that no longer exists.

## UNDER COVER OWLS BY TAGAN AND CODY

Did you know that the Burrowing Owl eats small mammals such as moles and mice? Later in life they switch to grasshoppers and beetles. They prefer open areas with low ground cover. Burrowing Owls nest in old burrows of small animals. They only weigh six ounces and are only ten inches tall when fully grown. They have long legs and brown and black feathers. The longest recorded life of a Burrowing Owl is eight years and eight months.

The Burrowing Owl is endangered in Canada and in

the United States. They are on the special concern list in several states. There are only seven hundred pair left in Canada.



One threat to the Burrowing Owl is the use of pesticides. For example, a farmer sprays his crops with pesticides. Later a mouse comes and eats some wheat from the crop. The Burrowing Owl eats the mouse. When it lays its eggs the shell will be soft. The owl sits on the eggs but the shell can't support the weight. In the U.S.A. they have no legal protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Another threat occurs when farmers plough their fields or when people build houses over their burrows.

## IS IT JUST ABOUT OVER FOR THE PIPING PLOVER?

The Piping Plover is a small stock bird. Other people also call it a shore bird. The Piping Plover eats grasshoppers and other small insects. They breed in Alberta and they like sloughs. Most of

*They are getting killed by hunters, farmers and other animals.*

them live on sand or pebble beaches. For the winter, they fly to Southeastern United States, Mexico and a few Caribbean Islands.

The Piping Plover is endangered because too

much oil is getting into the animal's habitat. They are getting killed by hunters, farmers and other animals. Pets, cattle and vehicles can cause damage on their territory.

By Lucas and Korbin

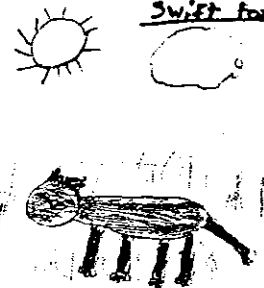
## THE SWIFT FOX—MAKING A COME BACK

The Swift Fox is about the same size as a jack rabbit or a large house cat. Their dens are usually on hills near bodies of water. They roam the prairies for food. The Swift Fox can run up to forty kilometers per hour.

It used to live across the Great Plains of America and the

Canadian Grasslands of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

This small fox disappeared from the prairie some fifty years ago. Due to the cooperation of local people



and conservation groups, the Swift Fox is making a come back. They are being raised in captivity and then released. It seems to be working.

By Brooklyn and Joseph

## ALBERTA BIRD—READ ALL ABOUT IT

The White Pelican is such an interesting bird! It arrives in Alberta in late April and leaves for Mexico or Florida in late September.

They like shallow lakes and coastal lagoons. They eat fish, salamanders, frogs and aquatic invertebrates. The White pelican is a huge bird. Its height ranges from fifty five to seventy inches. It has a long bright orange bill and it has black tipped wings.

In breeding season a yellowish crest appears on the back of the head. Breeding is when the male and female birds display their orange bills during courtship. Ritu-

als include bowing, strutting and short flights.

They lay their eggs in a col-



ony which begins in May. They tend to have chalky white eggs. They hatch about a month later.

The white pelican is endangered in Alberta. That's because if they get disrupted while breeding by humans or industrial activity, the birds may leave the whole nesting colony, leaving their eggs and chicks. Changing water levels from irrigation and recreation also affect them. It may also cause the birds to abandon a colony, at least temporarily.

By Joey and Travis

## THREATENED BIRD—A SERIOUS MATTER

Did you know that the Peregrine Falcon is threatened? It lives in many places in Alberta and on buildings.

It has a small, long head. It has pointy wings and it is the same size as a crow. It

catches birds and eats them. They can live up to thirteen years old.

The Peregrine Falcon became threatened through the use of DDT. This is pesticide that farmers used on their crops. The mice

There is now a ban on DDT.

ate the grain and then the peregrine falcon ate the mice which got into their system. This pesticide caused the egg shells to become weak. It caused them to crack. The peregrine falcons were also dying from the use of this pesticide. There is now a ban on DDT.

By LoriLee and Colton

## TRAGEDY FOR SALE BY MICHEL AND THOMAS

The Woodland Caribou eat vegetation, grass and berries. The habitat of the Woodland Caribou is Northern Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Woodland Caribou sometimes have spots. They have a dark brown neck and a rump. There is a white ring above each hoof. The Woodland Caribou look like they have a bunny tail and they

are big and strong. The hooves are good for traveling across the land. The hunters take the antlers off the caribou and sell them for a profit.

The threatened caribou are members of the deer family and are



Grass

larger and darker than the other two species.

They are threatened when they are over hunted and their habitat is destroyed. Let's do our best to protect these animals.

# HELP SAVE THE TRUMPETER SWAN

When you hear the word trumpeter do you think of a trumpet player? This article is actually about the Trumpeter Swan.

Its habitat are beaches and sloughs. It is a large, white bird and nests in Northern Canada and Alaska. Snails, insects, plants and aquatic life are its main food source.

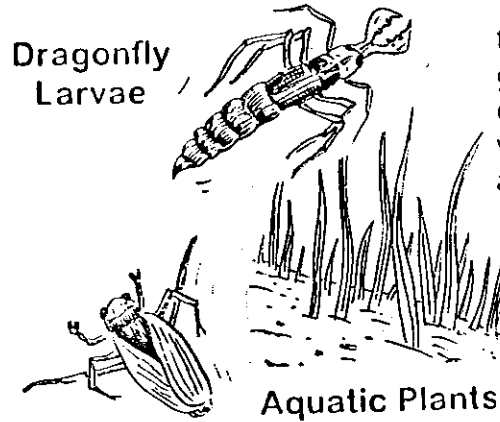
The Trumpeter Swan is a special concern because in the early years a huge number of them were shot down for their down and meat. Now there are programs to help them.

Its habitat is being taken away by land fills, power lines, houses and logging. Air and water pollution is a problem,

too. If the water is polluted, the animals in the lake get poisoned and the Trumpeter Swan eats them and gets sick.

People over hunted them in the early years, but it got better. It still isn't great. We can improve this by watching what we put in the water or air and where we build.

By Brooke and Courtney



Dragonfly Larvae

Aquatic Plants

## A MIRACLE UNDER WATER BY HANNAH AND DAYLAN

The Bull Trout does best in cold, clean water. It can be found in Canada and most of Alberta. They can live up to twenty years.

The Bull Trout can weigh up to thirty pounds. It has a large head

and big jaws in comparison to its body. It eats insects and other fish species. It mostly feed on Mountain White Fish. A female

Bull Trout will not spawn every year. She can lay up to five

thousand eggs at one time which she buries in the gravel.

The Bull Trout is in "Special Condition" because of over fishing. You are not allowed to keep a Bull Trout if you catch more than the limit. We don't want the Bull Trout to become endangered.

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## SAVE THE FROG

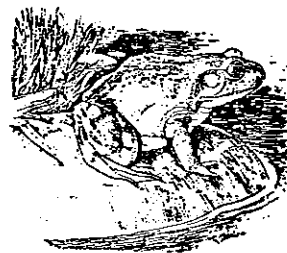
Do you like frogs? Have you heard about the Northern Leopard Frog? They are also called Grass Frogs. They have oval black spots.

They are found in Northern United States and Western Canada.

The females can lay up to three thousand eggs. They hiber-

nate for three months.

The Northern Leopard Frog is under "Special Conditions" which means they are almost endangered. The species was quite common in the 1970s until their numbers started to decline. Snakes took their



Frog

eggs. But pollution is a big problem. If you want to help them think about keeping a clean environment. Practice the three Rs...reuse, recycle and reduce waste.

By Racquel and Reid

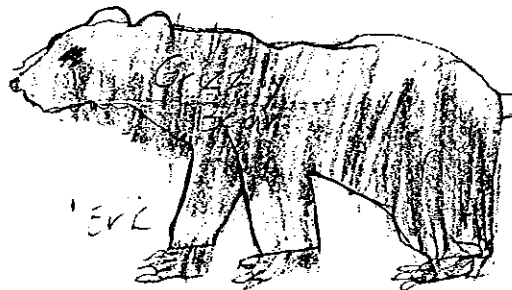
# BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE BY ASHLEY AND ERIC

The Grizzly Bear lives in the Boreal forests, Parklands, Foothills and the Rocky Mountains. It used to live on the prairies but because of humans the bears were forced away. You will only find them in North America.

They eat roots, grasses, berries, fish, insects, ground squirrels and mice. It will occasionally kill deer, moose, elk or even black bears.

The Grizzly Bear is hairy and has sharp curved claws. It

can weigh up to seven hundred pounds or more.



Put garbage away in specially designed bins.

This animal is listed under "Special Condition" because it has low declining numbers. Roads are going through land that was once their home. Human population is taking over their habitats. Slow down when traveling through National Parks. If you speed you could kill a Grizzly Bear. Don't feed the bears since human food is not good for them. Put garbage in special containers when visiting the parks.

## DESIGN A BUTTON

If you want to save endangered animals and birds, it helps to make sure lots of people know about the problem. One way is to make and wear a button for your favorite species.

Here's how.

Materials:  
cardboard,  
scissors, glue

*Which animal are you interested in saving?*

magazines, safety pin

Directions: Cut out a circle or square about 5 cm in diameter.

Draw a picture of your bird or animal, or cut out a picture.

Paste the picture onto your but-

ton.

Write a short caption around the picture.

Tape a safety pin to the back so you can wear your button.

Wear your button at recess and talk to other students. What other ways can you think of to make people aware of endangered species?

## MEDIA LINK...TV, MAGAZINES AND WEBSITES

- Watch for television shows that tell you more about endangered species. Talk to friends and family about new things you've learned.
- Check magazines like Owl or Ranger Rick for articles about endangered species.

Check out David Suzuki's Nature Challenge 4 Kids



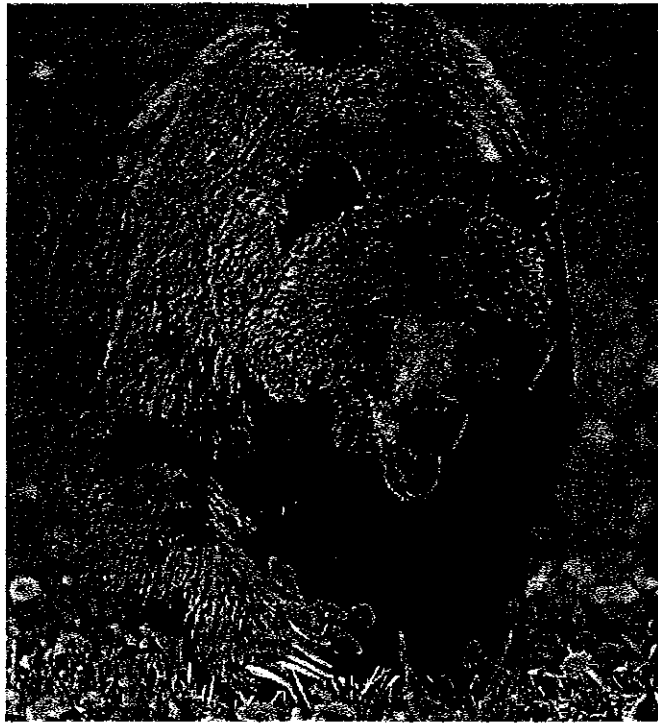
Peregrine falcon

[www.davidsuzuki.org/kids/challenges](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/kids/challenges)

Visit the awesome link on [www.actionchallenge.ca](http://www.actionchallenge.ca)

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society thanks

# Students at Ecole Joe Clark



## For taking the **ACTION CHALLENGE!**

*CPAWS works towards the long-term conservation of  
endangered spaces and species in Alberta.*

Date: March 8, 2007

Signed by:

CPAWS Education Team

*A. Syta Kinked*

