



Bruins 3, Penguins 4, Final

Rabbits, sharks, whales, and bees — species are threatened with extinction in New England

By [Matt Rocheleau](#) Globe Staff, May 6, 2019, 3:19 p.m.



New England cottontail rabbits are considered “vulnerable.” MARK LORENZ FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Scientists [sounded the alarm](#) on the sad state and frightening future of the natural world Monday in a [report](#) saying extinction looms for more than 1 million species of plants and animals worldwide.

That threat doesn't just apply to exotic wildlife — [pandas](#), [tigers](#), [elephants](#), and [polar bears](#) — in faraway places.

There are endangered species in our own backyard, here in New England.

Biologists at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, or IUCN, maintain a [detailed online database of threatened species](#), known as the “Red List.”

So far they've only studied a small fraction of the Earth's 8 million species. But already, they've found more than 27,000 species are threatened with extinction out of nearly 100,000 examined in depth.

In New England, there are eight “critically-endangered” species, including a type of [turtle](#), two [kinds](#) of [bees](#), as well as several [trees](#) and other [plants](#).

More turtles, [including the wood turtle](#), and bees are on the list of 18 “endangered” species in our region, along with the [North Atlantic right whale](#), a species of [mussel](#), a type of [beetle](#), a type of [bat](#), and two types of [fish](#) called [skates](#), which resemble stingrays.

Another 33 species that can be found in New England are considered “vulnerable,” including types of [sharks](#), the [New England cottontail rabbit](#), the [American horseshoe crab](#), and a species of [seahorse](#).

And then there are 37 more species in our region that are considered “near threatened” — more sharks, skates, fish, turtles, bats, plants, fungi, mussels, and a type of snail.

According to the Red List, New England has already seen at least one species go extinct: the [sea mink, which was hunted to extinction in the late 1800s](#)

Material from the Associated Press was used in this report. Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](#)

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