

# GIVE A HOOT FOR WILDLIFE!



## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

In *Hoot*, Roy halts the activity of the Mother Paula's All-American Pancake House developers by proving that they hid information about the project's impact on the habitat of a protected species, the Burrowing Owl. How can you get involved in protecting the habitats of rare, threatened or endangered species in your area? First, find out about plants and animals that may be at risk near where you live by using the online map activity "Learn About Endangered Species in Your Neighborhood." Next, take part in the opinion poll *Everything Counts* on this page. Then, complete the *What's Important* activity to find out more about endangered species in your area. Finally, take the survey again. Have your opinions changed?

## MILESTONES

**Mid 1600s** - Elephant birds became extinct

**Early 1680s** - Dodo birds became extinct

**1782** - Bald eagle became national symbol of the United States

**1904** - Last flock of Carolina parakeets seen in the wild

**1914** - Martha, the last passenger pigeon, died in the Cincinnati Zoo

**1916** - U.S. National Park Service established

**1945** - Whooping crane population reached low of 19 birds

**1949** - Eleven-year old Glenn Allen started campaign to save Florida's key deer

**1972** - DDT was banned from most uses in the U.S.

**1973** - Endangered Species act passed

**1979** - One hundred peregrine falcons raised in captivity are released to the wild

**1981** - Black-footed ferret, once thought extinct, is rediscovered

**1985** - Ivory-billed woodpeckers found in Cuba

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WALDEN MEDIA

## EVERYTHING COUNTS

Read these questions and write down your answers. Discuss your answers with friends, classmates and neighbors.

1. Which do you think it's more important to save: endangered plants or endangered animals? Why?
2. Your town is thinking about building a recreation center in your neighborhood. But the proposed site is the home of an endangered insect, and building the center might wipe out the insect. Do you think it's OK for the recreation center to be built on that site? Explain your answer.
3. Would you feel differently if there were an endangered bird living on the site where the center might be built? Why or why not?
4. Which of the following do you think it's most important to save?
  - a. animals that are very beautiful
  - b. large animals, such as whales and grizzly bears
  - c. animals that provide people with food or clothing
  - d. all types of animals

## WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

Some people think it's more important to protect birds and mammals than reptiles, amphibians, insects, and other "lower" animals and plants. But despite peoples' opinions, all species of plants, animals, and microorganisms are important in a natural community.

Do research about one of the endangered species in your state. Try to select one that is less glamorous. For example, if you are from New York, select the Bog Turtle. Show how this species is important to people and to a natural community. Try to find examples of environmental concerns in your area that affect this endangered species. Thinking about the species you researched, answer the questions in the poll again. Have your opinions changed?