

# Endangered Animals of Nepal - Poems

by Ann Mayer

with artwork by members of the  
International A-Team for Wildlife



*Carly Johnson*

The author wishes to thank Ken Jones for his artistic design and layout of this book and the children in the A-Team who did the wonderful illustrations. Thanks also to the friends who donated funds for printing the book in Nepal. Special recognition goes to these three non-profit organizations: **Red Panda Network** in Nepal for distributing copies of the book in Terai, Kathmandu, and the mountain regions; **Educate the Children (ETC)** based in Ithaca NY and Kathmandu, Nepal, for their useful advice and help with distributing the book to schools in Dolakha, and to the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** Nepal for helping with logistics.

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**Ann M. Mayer**

Ann Mayer is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College where she majored in zoology. She was a recipient, in her Junior year, of the Bernice Maclean Zoology Award given by the college for excellence in ecology and cellular biology.

She continued her education at Harvard University, obtaining a Masters in Education, and subsequently taught elementary school for 21 years, mostly in the Churchville–Chili district near Rochester, NY. During this time she was granted a sabbatical leave to research, write and publish children's books. She wrote three biographies for children, published by Creative Education: Sir Frederick Banting, Doctor Against Diabetes, Dag Hammarskjold, the Peacemaker, and The Two Worlds of Beatrix Potter. The Beatrix Potter book won second prize in the Young Adult Literature category of the bicentennial contest of the National Penwomen's Association in 1976. Ann and her father, Harry F. Mayer, collaborated on a non-fiction book about UFOs entitled Who's Out There? UFO Encounters published by Simon and Schuster.

Her particular interest in children's literature led Ann obtained a Masters in Library Science from SUNY Geneseo and work as a school librarian for several years.

After leaving the field of education, she worked for the Rochester Business Journal to set up a filing system and interview prominent local people for articles in the Journal. She has had varied experiences in jobs in the medical field, helping with clinical studies, editing manuscripts, writing grants, and coordinating professional medical conferences.

Ann's interests are reading, choral music, knitting and travel. She is now retired and living in Ithaca, NY.



## International A-Team For Wildlife



*Collectively, our 19 International A-Team Members have already raised nearly 1 Million Dollars for conservation, saved over 80,000 acres of habitat, appeared in films, authored books, have been interviewed on national radio and TV, won numerous awards, spoken at TED Talks, received over 40 MILLION views on You Tube, joined meetings at the White House, spoken to the United Nations, and have received recognition from President Obama.*

Kids make a difference!

Our artists:



Carly Johnson, age 15, award-winning video producer for wildlife conservation.



Avalon Theisen, age 14, ConserveltForward.org, educator, TV producer for wildlife.



Aidan Bodeo-Lomicky, age 15, VlogVaquita.com, author and champion for saving the Vaquita.



Olivia Binfield, age 13, OliviaBinfield.com, wildlife poet and TV star from "Britain's Got Talent".

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Species are endangered around the globe like never before. Nepal is just one small country blessed with many special and unique animals, many of them in danger of extinction. This work was collected and formatted by Ken Jones, of Creative Garden Media and A-Team For Wildlife. It features artwork created by several talented students who are, as members of the International A-Team For Wildlife, prodigies of conservation. Thank you to Carly Johnson, Avalon Theisen, Aidan Bodeo-Lomicky, Olivia Binfield, and Cooper Bodeo-Lomicky for your donations of art, and to author, Ann Mayer, for her gift of poetry.

You can learn more about A-Team For Wildlife at...

[www.A-TeamForWildlife.org](http://www.A-TeamForWildlife.org)



A Tribute to Nepal  
by Ann M. Mayer

This poem is dedicated  
To the people of Nepal,  
And their exotic animals  
One and all.

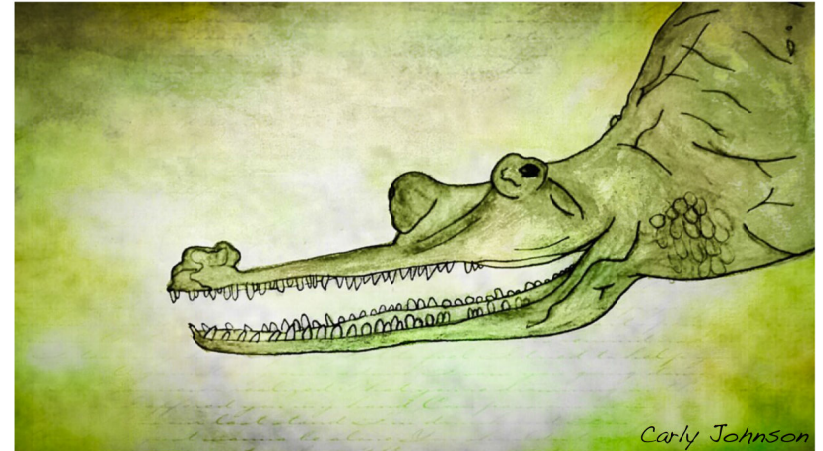
In the tiny country of Nepal  
Live wonderful creatures great and small.  
Many of them are becoming extinct  
For plants and animals are closely linked.  
As one species is threatened, so are all  
This pending disaster we must forestall.  
Here are some unusual features  
Of thirteen of these threatened creatures.



*Guest artist Cooper Bodeo-Lomicky*



So our planet awaits its fate.  
 As we continue to debate  
 How its resources we should allocate  
 And young people educate  
 Before it becomes too late.



Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*)

One of the largest relatives of a crocodile  
*Gavialis gangeticus*, may make you smile.  
 On land it may move by a "belly slide"  
 For its legs were not made to walk or stride.  
 To humans it poses no danger.  
 But a fact that is even stranger—  
 Though both females and males are covered with scales  
 Of tough material like fingernails,  
 Their skin feels smooth since there is a gap  
 Between the scales which do not overlap.  
 It has a long snout, and nests in the sand  
 Of a calm river bank where there's plenty of land.

Up to 95 eggs may be laid in one hole.  
 To keep them from poachers, people stand on patrol.  
 In July the young hatch and head for the river  
 Where dangers await them which may make you shiver.  
 A diet of fish it likes to eat,  
 (It may grow to a length of 17 feet!)  
 Some gharials live to be 30 years old  
 And their skin has a value as precious as gold.  
 As current fashion may lure people to use  
 The gharial' s skin for belts, purses, and shoes.  
 They're threatened by fishermen, trapping, and killing,  
 By river siltation and men who are willing  
 To cut off the snout and sell it for cures  
 Since demand for folk medicine always endures.  
 Still efforts continue to be made  
 To save the gharial from unfair trade  
 And see that laws are strictly obeyed.



Ants and termites it likes to eat  
 As it wobbles about on its stumpy hind feet.  
 When frightened, this creature rolls up in a ball  
 Resembling a pinecone, deceiving to all.

The female gives birth to one baby each year  
 Which rides on her tail with little to fear.  
 If threatened it gives off a very bad smell  
 In hope that its enemies it will repel.





### The Pangolin (*manis crassicaudata*)

The pangolin is the strangest of creatures  
 With some of the most unusual features  
 It resembles a dinosaur on the outside  
 But is really a mammal in disguise.

These scaly antecters are mostly nocturnal  
 But one of the species is diurnal.  
 They have no teeth, but their long sticky tongue  
 Starts deep in their chest, quite close to their lung.



### Pygmy hog (*Sus salvanius*)

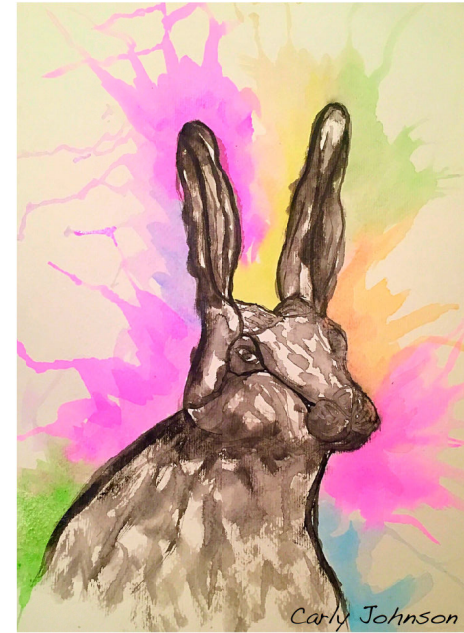
The pygmy hog is small in size  
 And may be facing its demise.  
 Threatened by pythons, tigers and man  
 It seldom lives out its full lifespan.  
 Its habitat, grasslands, are fast disappearing.  
 Fewer litters the hogs are rearing.  
 Both males and females build sleeping nests  
 Each day, to give them a place to rest.  
 Good swimmers they are, but don't forget  
 Pygmy hogs were not meant as a family pet!





Greater one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)

Have you ever thought that a unicorn  
 Could be a rhinoceros with a single horn?  
 The largest of all the species of rhino  
 Is the one-horned—which is rarely albino.  
 It eats mainly shrubs and branches of trees,  
 But fruits and aquatic plants also will please.  
 It's considered an agricultural pest  
 On tea plantations from east to west.  
 The most valuable part is its single huge horn  
 The destruction of which should cause people to mourn.



Hispid hare (*Caprolagus hispidus*)

The Hispid hare is extremely shy.  
 It's hard to study and find out why.  
 So secretive, it comes out at night  
 To search for food before daylight.  
 It lives on a diet of grasses and shoots,  
 Bark and thatch and sometimes roots.  
 The hare lives in burrows other creatures have left  
 But no one would ever consider this theft.







Nayan, Great Tibetan Sheep (*Ovis ammonhodgsoni*)

The Nayan is the largest  
 Of all the living sheep.  
 It ranges throughout Asia  
 And lives on mountains steep.  
 Grasses, herbs and sedges  
 It much prefers to eat  
 While balancing on the ledges  
 From which it often leaps.  
 It lives as long as 16 years.  
 In summer it appears  
 In higher pastures fresh and green  
 Where tender grasses are foreseen.  
 Their lives are threatened  
 By profiteers who value the sheep horns as souvenirs.



Royal Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*)

The Royal Bengal tiger o'er the forest doth reign  
 From its powerful place atop the food chain.  
 Its life is threatened by climate change,  
 As a rise in sea level shrinks its range.  
 Poachers are eager to meet the demand  
 For tigers. A symbol of status they stand.





Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*)

Have you heard of a leopard that cannot roar?  
 This seems like something to deplore.  
 The solitary snow leopard hunts goats and sheep  
 And can go 30 feet in a single leap.  
 Humans desire their bones and fur  
 From killing this beast they are hard to deter.



And long skinny legs  
 which are pink or red.

Natural wetlands are  
 crucial for breeding,

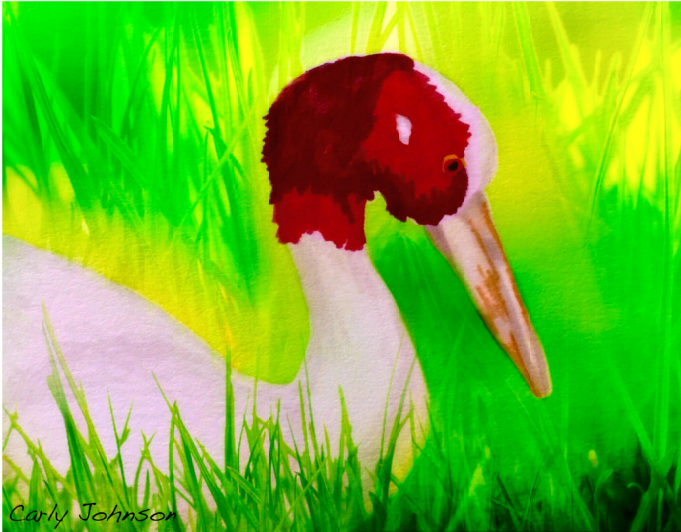
And cranes need them  
 also for nesting and  
 feeding.

Loss of the freshwater  
 habitats

And hunters who seek  
 the birds' feathers for  
 hats

Are what  
 environmentalists try to  
 combat.





Sarus crane (*Grus antigone*)

You may be surprised that the sarus crane  
 Stands nearly six feet tall.  
 Of the world's flying birds, its height remains  
 The greatest of them all.  
 It mates for life and nests on the ground.  
 When the female lays eggs, both birds stay around.  
 From the day that it hatches, the chick can walk.  
 Cranes are omnivorous, eating all they can stalk.  
 Adult cranes are grey with a crimson head



Impeyan pheasant (*Lophophorus impejanus*)

Some Nepalese have not yet heard  
 That the Impeyan pheasant is the National Bird!  
 A gorgeous bird of nine colors bright,  
 Its metallic plumage is a glorious sight.  
 It eats tubers and insects from the ground.  
 No larger a pheasant can be found.





*Avalon Theisen*

### Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*)

A red panda looks like raccoon  
 It appears in the light of the moon.  
 It sleeps in the day, and comes out at night  
 Seeking food to quench its huge appetite.  
 It makes its home in trees,  
 It eats leaves of bamboo with ease.  
 Supplemented by lizards and chicks,  
 Eggs and berries add to the mix.

A genetic dolphin, it will be in a healthy river  
 Which flows to the sea.  
 People hunt dolphins for oil and meat,  
 And build dams which disturb the cycle of breeding  
 And interrupt food chains they rely on for feeding.  
 People must keep in sight this animal's plight  
 And find a solution for ending pollution.





Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*)

In a river this mammal you'll find.  
 The gangetic dolphin is blind.  
 It does not need good eyesight  
 For it hunts without light  
 Using ultrasonic sound  
 To locate fish in its hunting ground.  
 If you should see

Extra thumbs help it grab the bamboo  
 Retractable claws are an asset, too.  
 Taking care of four cubs in the nest,  
 Female pandas may get little rest.  
 For ninety days each cub will remain  
 With mother. Its life she'll sustain.  
 The red panda sits on the brink.  
 In the future it may be extinct.  
 People must help it too,  
 Or soon we'll see the panda only in a zoo!





Giant hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*)

The bill on this bird is huge and absurd.  
 Orange, yellow and blue, it's amazing to view.  
 On its head is a helmet called a casque  
 "What is its purpose?" you may ask.  
 It may show the bird's strength and attract a mate  
 As it toots and cackles to infatuate.  
 Moist deciduous forests are its habitat  
 Where it eats fruit, snakes and insects and sometimes bats.

The female nests in a hole in a tree  
 Where she seals herself in with feces, wood and debris.  
 She leaves a small slit for the male to pass food.  
 As the chicks grow, she will leave her brood  
 And reseal the hole, and their enemies exclude.  
 Threats come from hunters of whom it is said  
 Drink the chicks' blood to comfort the dead.  
 Its casque is an object of desire  
 For making carvings people want to acquire.

