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Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Polynesian Ground Dove

The **Polynesian Ground Dove**, *Gallicolumba erythroptera*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Once much more widespread, it now only survives in the forests, scrubland and unworked plantations on four small islands in French Polynesia, having disappeared from several islands where it formerly occurred.

There are fewer than 200 Polynesian Ground Doves left in the wild. Historically there are two main reasons for the decline in numbers of this species: hunting, and newly introduced predators to the islands such as cats and rats. More recently this shy dove has struggled with human expansion into its range, and habitat loss as the richest vegetation is cleared for coconut plantations.

Rats were successfully eradicated in some areas and attempts to replicate this are ongoing throughout the Polynesian Ground Dove's distribution. Programmes to raise awareness of the threats and studies to better understand this enigmatic but elusive species are also underway. Other plans include the possible translocation of birds to suitable nearby islands, either rat- and cat-free or where eradication is possible.

**Knowledge**  
**Experts**  
**Action**  
**Get Involved**



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