



AUSTRALIAN THREATENED SPECIES



BILBY

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a conservation initiative of Planet Press

Did You Know?

BILBY

Macrotis lagotis

- ▶▶ The Greater Bilby is an Australian marsupial which belongs to the bandicoot family and is about the size of a small rabbit.
- ▶▶ Bilby fur is silky soft and blue-grey. They have long back feet like a kangaroo but, rather than hopping, they run along the ground on all fours. Their long ears give them excellent hearing.
- ▶▶ Bilbies live in arid and semi-arid areas of Australia. They are nocturnal and shelter from predators during the heat of the day in a burrow. After dark, the Bilby leaves the protection of the burrow to eat plants, seeds, grubs, bulbs, termites and insects.
- ▶▶ Female bilbies have a backwards-facing pouch. One or two tiny young spend about 10 weeks in the pouch, drinking milk and developing, before spending a further 2 weeks in the burrow, when they are still fed milk by their mother.
- ▶▶ The Bilby was once found across 70% of mainland Australia. Now the Bilby is extinct in NSW, VIC and SA. In QLD they are most threatened and a small wild population of approximately 800 animals remains. The much smaller Lesser Bilby is extinct.

To find out more about Australia's Bilby and how you can help to save them contact:



Save The Bilby Fund

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PO Box 155 Charleville QLD 4470

www.savethebilbyfund.com

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