

Talking about two endangered species of Reunion Island.

Reunion Island is an island with a very important flora and fauna, many species of plants and animals are endemic to it, that is to say that they only exist here.

Today I've decided to talk about two species, a bird and a butterfly, the first one is the « Tuit-tuit » or « Lalage Newtoni » a sparrow :

This bird is a sparrow measuring about 20 centimeters long, the male has gray and white plumage, and his wings and tail are black, the female has brown plumage.

This species can be found only in one forest of a mountain of the Island, the mountain peak of the Roche Écrite, Written Rock in english.

Only 38 couples of Tuit-tuit were identified in 2018 and are spread over only 19 km (for a comparison, the area of the island is 2512km²).

It is listed on the Red List of Threatened Species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a "Critically Endangered" species.

The main reason for their disappearance is the presence of rats on the island, to remedy this, the Reunion Island Ornithological Studies Society (SEOR) has been carrying out rat control campaigns for more than 10 years.

The species is therefore protected, hunting, capturing and selling it are therefore considered serious crimes.



The second endangered species is the butterfly « La Pâture » or « *Papilio phorbanta* » :

This butterfly is a big butterfly, the male is black with blue spots, the female is mostly brown with little white spots.

La Pâture can be found in the primary forest and gardens, over time, its presence became very rare (I have personally only seen one in my whole life).

It is one of the most endangered species on the red list of threatened species in Reunion Island.

The main reason for its disappearance is not completely clear but it could reveal of the use of insecticides without the crops of the island as well as the presence of a parasite called Hymenoptera which kills around 80% of the caterpillars of La Pâture.



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