Long ago, the forests of North America were the home of my family. Our nesting sites were awesome! A single site would be shared by some 100,000,000 individuals and could occupy some 750 square miles! People wrote of the wonder of seeing clouds of us fill the sky! For centuries, we lived in harmony with the other creatures of the forests.

Then, in the early 1800s, people began to share the forests with us. They made their homes from the trees, hunted the forest creatures, and quickly developed a taste for Passenger Pigeon meat.

At first, they just took a few hundred of my brothers and sisters.

Unfortunately, my species was not used to these new predators. They hunted with guns, clubs, and poisons. We could have survived if they had taken only what they needed to feed themselves. But soon, hunters came from far and near to hunt us, killing us by the millions. They sold our bodies for 15 cents a dozen. I was one of the last Passenger Pigeons.

I was killed in the Fall of 1913. We had survived for thousands of years in the forests of North America, but in less than 50 years, these hunters had wiped us off the face of the earth—PERMANENTLY!

Just as my species became extinct in a very short time, so might you! By unknowingly forcing any of Earth’s creatures to extinction, people are harming themselves! Please don’t let extinction happen to you or to any other creatures. Extinction is forever!