

RANDOM SAMPLES

EDITED BY CONSTANCE HOLDEN



CREDIT: THOMAS GEISSMANN

GRIM OUTLOOK FOR CHINESE APES

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Gibbons used to roam throughout southern China. Now only a handful remain in the southwest, and another species has bitten the dust. A survey of the Nangunhe Nature Reserve in China's tropical Yunnan Province has revealed no trace of the white-handed gibbon (*Hylobates lar*, above), whose piercing whoops were last heard in 1992.

A team from the Gibbon Conservation Alliance, based at the University of Zürich and the Kunming Institute of Zoology, surveyed areas where there had been reports of the species in the past 2 decades. In a report to the alliance last week, the team estimated that the last of the white gibbons disappeared a decade ago, victims of hunting and habitat destruction.