

TAXON SUMMARY

King Island Emu

1	Family	Casuariidae
2	Scientific Name	<i>Dromaius ater</i> Vieillot, 1817
3	Common Name	King Island Emu
4	Conservation status	Extinct

5 Reasons for listing

This species was last recorded in about 1805.

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described.

7 Past range and abundance

The King Island Emu was endemic to King Island, Tas., where it was present 'in great numbers' at the beginning of the 19th century (Brasil, 1914).

8 Ecology

The King Island Emu was found along the shores and near lagoons on the island, feeding on berries and seaweed (Brasil, 1914).

9 Reasons for extinction

The King Island Emu became extinct in about 1805 (Green, 1989), probably as a result of hunting with dogs by seal hunters (Brasil, 1914).

10 Bibliography

Brouwer, J. and Parker, S. 1992. Emu (King Island subspecies). P. 15 in *Threatened and Extinct Birds of Australia. RAOU Report 82*. S.T. Garnett (ed.). Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, Melbourne, and Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Canberra.

Brasil, L. 1914. The emu of King Island. *Emu* 14:88-97.

Green, R. H. 1989. *Birds of Tasmania*. Potoroo Publishing, Launceston.

Text adapted from

Brouwer and Parker (1992).