

TAXON SUMMARY

Norfolk Island Ground-Dove

1	Family	Columbidae
2	Scientific Name	<i>Gallicolumba norfolciensis</i> (Latham, 1801)
3	Common Name	Norfolk Island Ground-Dove
4	Conservation status	Extinct

5 Reasons for listing

The species is best known from a picture that was drawn by Hunter in 1790 (Hindwood, 1965), but was also referred to in letters by a number of casual observers at the penal settlement on Norfolk I. in 1788-90. Its bones are found in natural and archaeological sites. There are no known specimens.

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described.

7 Past range and abundance

The Norfolk Island Ground-Dove was endemic to Norfolk I. (Hindwood, 1965, Schodde *et al.*, 1983). No estimates of its population size are available. The species was last recorded in 1800 (Schodde *et al.*, 1983).

8 Ecology

The Norfolk Island Ground-Dove was presumably a species of the coastal forest. It may have utilised forest habitat throughout the island, but no bones have been found in the higher parts of the island (M. Christian).

9 Reasons for extinction

Hunting and predation by introduced cats and pigs are the likely causes of the Norfolk Island Ground-Dove's extinction (Schodde *et al.*, 1983). Numbers may already have been suppressed by the introduction of the Pacific rat *Rattus exulans* with Polynesians 800 years ago (Holdaway and Anderson, 1998, R. Holdaway).

10 Bibliography

Hermes, N. 1992. Norfolk Island Ground-Dove. P. 71 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.

Hindwood, K. A. 1965. John Hunter. A naturalist and artist of the First Fleet. *Emu* 65:83-95.

Holdaway, R. N. and Anderson, A. J. 1998. 14C AMS dates on *Rattus exulans* bones from natural and archaeological contexts on Norfolk Island, South-west Pacific. *Archaeology in New Zealand*. 41:195-198.

Schodde, R., Fullagar, P. and Hermes, N. 1983. *A Review of the Status of Norfolk Island Birds: Past and Present*. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Canberra.

Text adapted from

Hermes (1992).

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