

TAXON SUMMARY

Tasman Starling (Lord Howe Island)

1	Family	Sturnidae
2	Scientific Name	<i>Aplonis fusca hulliana</i> Mathews, 1912
3	Common Name	Tasman Starling (Lord Howe Island)
4	Conservation status	Extinct

5 Reasons for listing

There have been no records of this subspecies since 1918.

6 Intraspecific taxa

A. f. fusca (Norfolk Island) is also Extinct.

7 Past range and abundance

This subspecies of Tasman Starling was endemic to Lord Howe I. (Mathews, 1929). It has not been seen since 1918 (Hindwood, 1940). During the period 1913-15, it was described as occurring in 'thousands' (Hindwood, 1940).

8 Ecology

The Tasman Starling nested in tree hollows (Hindwood, 1940) and presumably occupied all forested habitats on Lord Howe I. It was apparently destructive to fruit and other crops as well as other birds, supposedly taking their eggs (Hindwood, 1940, Hutton, 1991).

9 Reasons for extinction

The Tasman Starling would have been particularly vulnerable to predation by Black Rats *Rattus rattus* after they colonised the Lord Howe I. in 1918, so rats probably caused its extinction. The subspecies was extinct before the Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* arrived on the island (Long, 1981).

10 Bibliography

Hindwood, K. A. 1940. The birds of Lord Howe Island. *Emu* 40:1-86.

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Long, J. L. 1981. *Introduced Birds of the World: The Worldwide Distribution and Influence of Birds Introduced to New Environments*. A. H. & A. W. Reed, Sydney.

Mathews, G. M. 1929. *The Birds of Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands*. The Author, London.

Comments received from

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