

TAXON SUMMARY

New Zealand Pigeon (Norfolk Island)

1	Family	Columbidae
2	Scientific Name	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae spadicea</i> (Latham, 1802)
3	Common Name	New Zealand Pigeon (Norfolk Island)
4	Conservation status	Extinct

5 Reasons for listing

This subspecies was last recorded a century ago.

6 Intraspecific taxa

Other subspecies are found on the North, South and off-shore islands of New Zealand and on the Chatham Is (Higgins and Davies, 1996). Global status is Near Threatened.

7 Past range and abundance

This subspecies of the New Zealand Pigeon was endemic to Norfolk I. There are no estimates of its abundance; though recorded by early visitors to the island, no more than the subspecies' presence was noted. It has not been recorded since 1900 (Schodde *et al.*, 1983).

8 Ecology

The nominate subspecies of the New Zealand Pigeon in New Zealand relies on the availability of a wide range of fruits in order to breed successfully, as well as the availability of nutritious leaves in the non-fruiting season (Clout, 1990). On Norfolk I., the subspecies probably relied on a variety of fruiting trees to survive.

9 Reasons for extinction

Hunting was almost certainly the main reason for the subspecies' extinction (Schodde *et al.*, 1983, R. Holdaway). Known as a Wood Quest, it was extremely tame and was already scarce by the 1850s (McAllan, 1999).

10 Bibliography

Clout, M. 1990. The Kereru and its forests. *Birds International* 2:10-19.

Higgins, P. J. and Davies, S. J. J. F. (eds) 1996. *Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Vol. 3. Snipe to Pigeons*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

McAllan, I. A. W. 1999. A common name for the Norfolk Island Pigeon. *Australia. Bird Watcher* 18:179-180.

Schodde, R., Fullagar, P. and Hermes, N. 1983. *A Review of Norfolk Island birds: past and present*. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Canberra.

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