

TAXON SUMMARY

Emu (Tasmanian)

1	Family	Casuariidae
2	Scientific name	<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae diemenensis</i> Le Souef, 1907
3	Common name	Emu (Tasmanian)
4	Conservation status	Extinct

5 Reasons for listing

This subspecies was last seen in the wild in 1865.

6 Intraspecific taxa

D. n. novaehollandiae is widespread in uncleared parts of mainland Australia and is Least Concern, although its range has contracted.

7 Past range and abundance

This subspecies of Emu was endemic to Tasmania, most records being from the east and near the northern coast (Dove, 1926). It was never described as abundant. It was at least locally extinct by the 1830s (Dove, 1924), and was last seen in the wild in about 1865. A few may have survived in captivity until 1873 (Dove, 1924, Green, 1989).

8 Ecology

The Tasmanian subspecies of the Emu appears to have lived in upland grasslands and open grassy woodlands near the northern and eastern coasts (Green, 1989).

9 Reasons for extinction

The subspecies was hunted and its eggs taken (Legge, 1907, Dove, 1924). These factors were probably the cause of its extinction (Green, 1989).

10 Bibliography

Dove, H. S. 1924. Notes on the Tasmanian emu. *Emu* 23:221-222.

Dove, H. S. 1926. How Tasmania lost the emu. *Emu* 25:213.

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

Legge, W. V. 1907. The emus of Tasmania and King Island. *Emu* 6:116-119.

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