

## TAXON SUMMARY

# Kangaroo Island Emu

1	Family	Casuariidae
2	Scientific Name	<i>Dromaius baudinianus</i> Parker, 1984
3	Common Name	Kangaroo Island Emu
4	Conservation status	Extinct

### 5 Reasons for listing

This species was last recorded in 1827.

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

None described.

### 7 Former range and abundance

The Kangaroo Island Emu was endemic to Kangaroo I., S. A., where, in 1819, it was recorded as abundant at sites on both northern and southern coasts, as well as inland (Parker *et al.*, 1979).

### 8 Ecology

Nothing is known of the ecology of the Kangaroo Island Emu. Reports of extensive grasslands on Kangaroo Island appear to have been for the purpose of attracting settlers, and were later found to be grossly inaccurate (Hope, 1968). Presence of emus in such grasslands (Parker *et al.*, 1979) must also be viewed sceptically.

### 9 Reasons for extinction

The Kangaroo Island Emu's extinction by about 1827 (Parker *et al.*, 1979), has been attributed to hunting and excessive burning (Ashby, 1924), in the absence of any conclusive evidence.

### 10 Bibliography

Ashby, E. 1924. Notes on extinct or rare Australian birds, with suggestions as to some of the causes of their disappearance. *Emu* 24:178-183.

Brouwer, J. and Parker, S. 1992. Emu (Kangaroo Island subspecies). P. 16 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.

Hope, P. 1968. *The Voyage of the Africaine*. Heinemann Educational Australia, South Yarra.

Marchant, S. and Higgins, P. J. (eds) 1990. *The Handbook of Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds*. Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Parker, S. A., Eckert, H. J., Ragless, G. B., Cox, J. B. and Reid, N. C. H. 1979. *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of South Australia. Part One: Emus to Spoonbills*. South Australian Ornithological Association, Adelaide.