

TAXON SUMMARY

Norfolk Island Kaka

1	Family	Psittacidae
2	Scientific Name	<i>Nestor productus</i> (Gould, 1836)
3	Common Name	Norfolk Island Kaka
4	Conservation status	Extinct

5 Reasons for listing

The last known bird died in 1851.

6 Intraspecific taxa

None described, although this species is regarded by some as conspecific with the still extant New Zealand Kaka *N. meridionalis* (Forshaw, 1981).

7 Past range and abundance

The Norfolk Island Kaka was endemic to Norfolk I. and adjacent Phillip I. (Forshaw, 1981). No historical information appears to be available regarding its numbers. The last known living bird is reported to have died in captivity in London in 1851 (Gould, 1865).

8 Ecology

The Norfolk Island Kaka was apparently found foraging among rocks, as well as up in the tallest trees. They laid four white eggs in a tree hollow. The birds were very tame, and fed on the blossoms of the white-wood tree or white hibiscus (Gould, 1865), presumably *Lagunaria patersonia*, although the size and strength of their bill suggests they must have eaten other foods as well (M. Christian).

9 Reasons for extinction

Convicts and early settlers are said to have killed kakas, presumably for food. Much of the species' habitat would also have been destroyed by clearance for agriculture. The species may have survived on Phillip I. after its extinction on Norfolk I. (Forshaw, 1981).

10 Bibliography

Forshaw, J. M. 1981. *Australian Parrots*. Lansdowne Press, Melbourne.

Forshaw, J. M. 1992. Norfolk Island Kaka. Pp. 76-77 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.

Gould, J. 1865. *Handbook to the Birds of Australia. Vol. 2*. J. Gould, London.

Text adapted from

Forshaw (1992).

Comments received from

Margaret Christian.