

## TAXON SUMMARY

# White Gallinule

1	Family	Rallidae
2	Scientific Name	<i>Porphyrio albus</i> (Shaw, 1790)
3	Common Name	White Gallinule
4	Conservation status	Extinct

### 5 Reasons for listing

The last birds of this subspecies died between 1788 and 1830.

### 6 Intraspecific taxa

None described. Large and flightless with massive skull, long legs and short toes, the White Gallinule is most closely related to the Takahe *Notornis mantelli* (Hutton, 1991).

### 7 Past range and abundance

The White Gallinule was endemic to Lord Howe I. The species was remarked upon when Lord Howe I. was discovered in 1788, and is thought to have been numerous (Hutton, 1991). As the first settlers on the island in the 1830s did not comment on the species, it had presumably already become Extinct (Hindwood, 1940). Records from Ball's Pyramid and Norfolk Island are considered spurious (Hindwood, 1940, 1965).

### 8 Ecology

The White Gallinule occurred within woodland on the island. It is thought to have been a ground-feeding omnivore that took plants and invertebrates (Hutton, 1991).

### 9 Reasons for extinction

The White Gallinule was hunted with enthusiasm by members of the First Fleet. Almost certainly, hunting by the sailors and subsequent itinerant visitors caused the species' extinction (Hindwood, 1940).

### 10 Bibliography

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

Hindwood, K. A. 1965. John Hunter: a naturalist and artist of the First Fleet. *Emu* 65:83-96.

Hutton, I. 1991. *Birds of Lord Howe Island, Past and Present*. The Author, Coffs Harbour.

### Comments received from

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