GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

EICAT profile: ***Gallirallus australis***

MV (Massive)Gallirallus australis

Date assessed	2021-09-08
Year published	2023
Eicat category	MV (Massive)
Justification for EICAT assessment	On Macquarie Island predation by the Weka may have been sufficient to reduce the endemic Macquarie Island Parakeets (Cyanoramphus erythrotis) from abundance to global extinction and may also have destroyed the endemic Macquarie Rail (Gallirallus philippensis macquariensis) which was globaly extinct by 1984. The crucial factor in the bird's extinction appears to have been the successful liberation of rabbits (Oryctolagus cuniculus) in 1879. This led to great increases of feral cats and introduced wekas (Gallirallus australis) and presumably to greatly intensified predation on parakeets. (Taylor 1979).
Confidence rating	Low
Mechanism(s) of maximum impact	Predation
Countries of most severe impact	New Zealand
Description of impact	The Weka is responsible for the global extinction of the Macquarie Island Parakeet and Macquarie Rail, the local extinction of the Blue Petrel on Macquarie Island and for the decline of several bird species in New Zealand. It preys on bird eggs, chicks and invertebrates and can alter the characteristics of vegetated areas.
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Contributors	
Reviewers	EICAT authority
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