Subspecies Conservation Summary

Red-fronted Parakeet
(Macquarie Island)
*Cyanoramphus novaeezelandiae erythrotis* (Wagler, 1832)
Psittacidae

Conservation status
Extinct

Reasons for listing
The last individual recorded in 1890

Status 2000
Extinct

Status 1990
Extinct

Taxonomy
Four extralimital subspecies; the species is Vulnerable
Taxonomic uniqueness: low (76 genera/family, 9 species/ genus, 6 subspecies/species)

Former range
The Macquarie island subspecies of Red-fronted Parakeet
was endemic to Macquarie I.

Former abundance
The bird was common until 1879. Over the next decade,
numbers fell quickly and it was not seen after 1890 (Taylor 1979).

Ecology
The parakeet lived in tussock grassland. Little is known
about its diet, but it may have foraged on the seashore on
crustaceans and other small invertebrates (Taylor 1979).

Reasons for extinction
The main reason for the decline of the Macquarie Island
Red-fronted Parakeet was predation by feral cats *Felis
catus* (Jones 1977), whose numbers increased dramatically
following the introduction of rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (Taylor 1979). Large numbers of Parakeets were
also killed for food by sealers in the 19th century (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 2011). Predation by Black Rats *Rattus rattus* and Wekas *Gallirallus australis* was also likely to have been substantial (Taylor 1979).

Bibliography
