

**MV (Massive)** *Gallirallus australis*

<b>Date assessed</b>	2021-09-08
<b>Year published</b>	2023
<b>Eicat category</b>	MV (Massive)
<b>Justification for EICAT assessment</b>	On Macquarie Island predation by the Weka may have been sufficient to reduce the endemic Macquarie Island Parakeets ( <i>Cyanoramphus erythrotis</i> ) from abundance to global extinction and may also have destroyed the endemic Macquarie Rail ( <i>Gallirallus philippensis macquariensis</i> ) which was globally extinct by 1984. The crucial factor in the bird's extinction appears to have been the successful liberation of rabbits ( <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> ) in 1879. This led to great increases of feral cats and introduced wekas ( <i>Gallirallus australis</i> ) and presumably to greatly intensified predation on parakeets. (Taylor 1979).
<b>Confidence rating</b>	Low
<b>Mechanism(s) of maximum impact</b>	Predation
<b>Countries of most severe impact</b>	New Zealand
<b>Description of impact</b>	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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<b>Contributors</b>	
<b>Reviewers</b>	EICAT authority
<b>Recommended citation</b>	Tom Allmert; Thomas Evans. (2026). <i>Gallirallus australis</i> . <a href="#">IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT)</a> .

