

A note on the 1997 survey of the translocated Ultramarine Lory *Vini ultramarina* population on Fatu Hiva, Marquesas Islands, French Polynesia

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In 1991 a survey was conducted in the Marquesas Islands to determine the current range and population size of the Ultramarine Lory *Vini ultramarina*. A total of 313 birds were counted, restricted to one island, Ua Huka. A translocation program was initiated to capture and relocate birds to a less disturbed island. Fatu Hiva, an island within the historical range of the species, was chosen to establish a second population. This island still supports suitable habitat and does not have a resident population of *Rattus rattus*, which may have contributed to the decline of the species on Nuka Hiva and Ua Pou. Increased agriculture, grazing herbivores, bees, and banana plant disease may have also contributed to the decline.

Twenty-nine birds were captured on Ua Huka and relocated to Fatu Hiva on 28 August 1992 (seven birds), 24 November 1993 (seven birds) and 23 October 1994 (15 birds). Monitoring of the birds after release was accomplished by the Service de L'Economie Rurale (SER) (Kuehler *et al.*, 1997).

During the period 19 January–27 January 1997, three observers surveyed Fatu Hiva to determine the status of the translocated population of Ultramarine Lories, all field efforts being focused in habitats likely to support the species. The village of Omoa, Omoa Valley, Hanaveve Valley, Puipuauihi Valley, Yolande Valley, Tetana Valley, Ouia Valley and the mountain range between the Ouia and Hanaveve valley were surveyed. Fifty-one Ultramarine Lories were counted including ten birds in subadult plumage; one fledgling (completely sooty black) was being fed by a parent. We conclude that translocated Ultramarine Lories from Ua Huka are surviving and reproducing on Fatu Hiva.

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