





Human-induced Extinction of Dodo

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A new study by researchers from the Oxford University Museum of Natural History and others has challenged the idea that the dodo was a slow and clumsy bird.

- The study found evidence that **dodos** and its sister species, the **solitaire**, were actually **fast-moving, well-adapted forest birds**.
- Dodos went extinct **primarily due to human activity** and the introduction of non-native species like **pigs, rats, and cats, which preyed on their eggs and chicks**, rather than their perceived lack of intelligence.
- Through **DNA analysis**, it has been established that the **dodo belonged to the family (Columbidae) of doves and pigeons**, with its closest relative being the Nicobar pigeon.
- **Dodos and Rodrigues Solitaires:**

	Dodos	Solitaires
Scientific name	<i>Raphus cucullatus</i>	<i>Pezophaps solitaria</i>
		
Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ It had grayish feathers and a distinctive large, hooked beak.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ It exhibited pronounced sexual dimorphism.▪ Males had a large bony knob on the wrists.
Habitat	Endemic to the island of Mauritius and lived in forests	Endemic to Rodrigues island of Mauritius
Evolutionary History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ It evolved to be flightless due to the absence of predators on Mauritius.▪ The dodo likely had strong running abilities.	
Discovery and Extinction	Extinct in 1681.	Extinct (last confirmed in the 1760s)

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