



Gang-gang

JUNE 2014

Newsletter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

JUNE MEETING

Wednesday 11 June 2014

7.00 pm.

Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, corner Kings Avenue and Blackall Street, Barton ACT.

A Special Presentation – “Rediscovery of the Night Parrot”

This special presentation by **John Young** about the ‘Rediscovery of the Night Parrot’ is being co-sponsored by Eremaea eBird (ACT) and the Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG).

Please note this will not be a normal COG meeting but a special event for which you needed to register and is also being held both at a different venue and starting time. See Page 2 for details of the venue location and parking.

Come and hear this wonderful story of a search lasting 17,000 hours for a parrot considered extinct. The presentation will take about 90 minutes and will begin with the natural history of the Night Parrot. It will then cover the

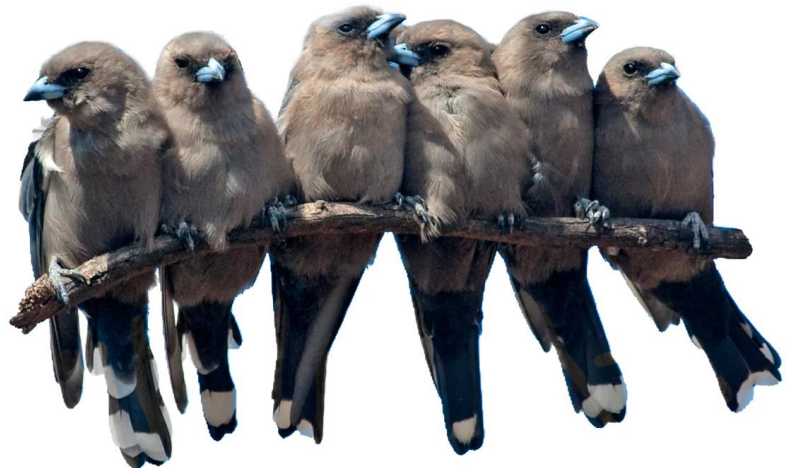
Continued Page 2

What to watch out for this month

Despite an uncertain start over the first weekend, May has turned out to be a very warm month for the time of the year – in my 40 years here I’ve never still been picking zucchinis and tomatoes. Assuming this continues, it’s interesting to consider how this might affect the birds, and whether more than usual will overwinter. Of the last two spring/summer migrant species usually to depart, the **Dusky Woodswallow** and the **Olive-backed Oriole** were both still being reported, the former at least to the middle, and the latter to the end of May. You might predict that a warm winter would see larger numbers of these stay over, but this hasn’t necessarily been the case over the past few winters, particularly for the former species (the latter is present in relatively low numbers even in summer). So keep a special watch out and report any observations of these species.

From reports on the chatline it appeared the honeyeater migration was over by the end of April. Mark Clayton observed that he has not had any honeyeaters migrating over his Kaleen house for at least 5 years now, whereas before that he was on a regular migration route. This is reflected in my experience in Chapman, where this year there were at

Continued Page 2



Dusky Woodswallows

Photo: Julian Robinson

Everyone welcome

May Meeting—continued from Page 1

search for the parrot from when John first recorded its call until its subsequent sighting and capture by digital photography. It will conclude with the ongoing study of the bird's ecology. The presentation will contain about 25 still images and a short video of the Night Parrot. There will be time set aside for questions at the end of the presentation.

On the night, John will also be selling limited edition prints of the Night Parrot (\$300) to raise funds for continuing study about this bird.



The Centre is a concrete bunker-looking building right on the corner of Kings Avenue and Blackall Street. Please see the map above. There is limited parking around the venue, but ample parking is available in the large car park on the other side of Kings Avenue, accessed via Dorothy Tangney Place. It is recommended that you park there and walk across King's Avenue.

What to watch out for this month—continued from Page 1

best a few strays (not more than 5) passing over, which is the complete opposite of when we moved here 40 years ago when even on windy afternoons there were masses moving through into Rivett. Mark wondered if it was housing development that was redirecting them. There is some support for this at Point Hut where COG used to have an annual outing to view them as they came upstream to gather at the bend there before leaving the river to fly high over the then open grassland towards Mount Rob Roy. Since Gordon etc were developed this phenomenon no longer seems to take place, at least not in anywhere near the previous numbers.

These birds are still being reported and I expect some will overwinter. Interestingly the 2012-2013 Annual Bird Report (ABR) reports that numbers of the **White-naped Honeyeater** are in decline with the lowest reporting rate since 1986. This again is reflected in my observations in my local patch of NW Cooleman Ridge/southern half of Narrabundah Hill where I have only occasionally observed this species for at least the past 5 years. So here are another two species to keep a watch out for over winter, especially if it turns out to be a warm one.



Grey Fantail

There still seem to be lots of **Grey Fantail** around (including in my local patch where they are usually gone by now), though fewer of the **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**; these two species also overwinter in varying numbers. **Superb Parrots** are still also being reported, though numbers do seem to have dropped over the month. Of the species that are usually considered more "complete" spring/summer migrants there have been single or several reports in May of the **Western Gerygone**, **Mistletoebird** and the **Australian Reed-Warbler**. Surprisingly on one occasion the latter was calling; they are often pretty silent if still present in the colder months, as is the case for many species, including the cuckoos, which is one reason

why those few that still may be present are often overlooked. So keep an eye (rather than an ear) out for these species.

Of the partial migrants mentioned in last month's column there seem to be plenty of **Red Wattlebirds** (including in my GBS site where numbers for the past month have been the highest for the year due to the flowering planted gums), **Silvereyes** and **Spotted** and **Striated Pardalotes** still around. With the weather drying out it appears that mixed feeding flocks (MFFs) have started to re-form and over the last full weekend in May I had a big one in my GBS site again. Interestingly the main species was the **Striated Thornbill**, and compared with previous years there have been very few **Weebills** or pardalotes in amongst them; in fact I've only recorded one **Striated Pardalote** in my garden in the past month. Watch out also for ground feeding mixed flocks, in particular those containing the **Red-browed** and **Double-barred Finch** as well as the **Diamond Firetail**. Again numbers of these have increased over the past month in my local patch, but not to as high as they were a few years ago.

Of the winter altitudinal migrants the **Scarlet Robin** is still being reported widely and it seems at least some **Flame Robin** have moved closer in to Canberra though I have only been able to find a single female in my local patch. A number of **Rose Robins** have been reported, including away from the ANBG, but there don't seem to be any reports yet of the **Pink Robin** or the **Yellow-tufted Honeyeater**. In contrast there have been reports of the **Fuscous** and the **Crescent Honeyeater**, with the latter was calling loudly several times in my GBS site in Chapman during May. This includes a pair in a MFF, but in both cases they moved on after about 10 minutes rather than choose to stay as they formerly did. There have also been a few reports of the **Swift Parrot**, but I expect most of them will be at the South Coast again this year where extensive flowering has been reported.



Pink Robin

Julian Robinson



Australian Ornithological Services P/L

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2014 tours

3 — 10 August
New Caledonia

6 — 25 September
Strzelecki Track 35th tour
The 4 states outback expedition
(1 place left)

30 September — 8 October
NSW Central Coast. Gloucester
Tops NP, Barren Grounds NR,

10 — 19 December
SW Western Australia

2015 tours

31 January — 7 February
Tasmania birding & mammal tour

February/March
New Zealand: South & Stewart
Islands & North incl. Hauraki Gulf
pelagic

18 — 25 April **Alice Springs**

24 May — 7 June **Top End**
Part 1: Darwin to Katherine
Part 2: Katherine to Kununurra
Part 3: Mitchell Plateau

July **Iron Range & Atherton
Tablelands**

September: **Strzelecki Track
outback tour**

Please see itineraries, checklists and
latest news on our website

www.philipmaher.com

Spring/summer is not the only time when surprise species turn up in the ACT as illustrated by the rather elusive **Lewin's Honeyeater** present at the ANBG since mid-May, and the **Bell Miner** photographed at Casuarina Sands towards the end of the month. The 2012-2013 ABR reports that the former is usually found in the Tallaganda forests in the east of the region, but rarely further west. The latter is not even listed as a possibility in the ABR though Steve Wilson's book *Birds of the ACT: Two Centuries of Change* lists a number of reports in the 1990s, all in the vicinity of Lake Burley Griffin. Both are coastal species, as is the **Brown Gerygone**. I was going to remind readers to check on whether it is visiting the ANBG again this year, but it may already be there with a possible sighting in the last full weekend of May.



Tobias Hayashi

Brown Gerygone

Except for the report of **Speckled Warbler** fledglings in mid-May, the evidence continues to support that the rain in mid-February and the first half of April didn't trigger much autumn breeding, at least of "bush birds". However, other species such as raptors and water birds do regularly nest during autumn/winter as exemplified by the **Black-shouldered Kite** nest at Kelly Swamp, and the signs of courting behaviour of the **White-bellied Sea-Eagles** seen in the same area. **Australasian Grebe** young were also reported during May, and there has been a group of very young **Australian Wood Ducklings** on a dam in my local patch.



Julian Robinson

Black-shouldered Kite

So keep a lookout for any winter breeding, as well as further MFFs, including those containing ground feeding species such as the finches which sometimes can form nearly pure flocks containing limited if any other species. Look out as well as for winter visitors, and for individuals of those species that have mainly or nearly entirely moved north to warmer areas. Even though it may be winter there is always plenty to see, including the large flocks of **Sulphur-crested Cockatoos** and **Corellas** feeding on the grass of central Canberra. As usual please ensure that all significant observations end up on the COG database.

Jack Holland

Gudgenby, Namadgi National Park



Nature Lodge Optics

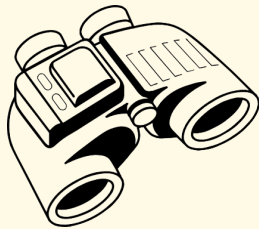
Nature Lodge Optics, a family owned business based in Huskisson, Jervis Bay, has been supplying quality binoculars to customers in the Canberra region since 2007.

Originally established in the UK in 1946, the owners established a branch in Australia several years ago and have become the region's leading independent binocular store.

Open 7 Days, the store always has over 100 pairs of binoculars in stock with a particular emphasis on Birdwatching products.

Major brands such as Steiner, Zeiss, Bushnell, Nikon & Pentax are represented together with smaller hi-tech brands like Weaver, Vortex, Forest Optics, Visionary and Vanguard.

A selection of Spotting Scopes, Night Vision & Tripods are always available.



As a family business and NOT a franchise the owners Daniel and Joanna Payne will always be happy to source the specialist or unusual products that individual customers require having established a global network of suppliers.

The store also specialises in polarised eyewear with brands such as Maui Jim, RayBan & Oakley to name just a few.

The helpful and informative website www.binoculars4u.com.au is regularly updated but is no substitute for personal service and recommendation which is always on hand.

We welcome customers new and old to call us on 02 4441 7770

Field Trip Reports

Sunday 4 May – Campbell Park

Despite a dire forecast of rain and winds, 4 May turned out to be a cold, reasonably still and delightfully sunny morning, attracting 11 COG members plus two visitors from Brisbane. However, we had a very ordinary start in the reserve area just north of the Defence Building, encountering a large (and very) **Noisy Miner** flock which had displaced all but **Crimson** and **Eastern Rosellas**, a few **Magpies**, **Galahs** and **Red-rumped Parrots**. Away from the Noisies, things improved, with good views of a perched **Common Bronzewing**, and then some flocks of small birds, mainly **Spotted Pardalote**, **Buff-rumped Thornbill** and **Weebill**, and subsequently **Golden Whistler**, **Grey Butcherbird**, **Grey Fantail**, **White-eared Honeyeater** and **Superb Fairy-wren**.

Nearby were several intact **White-winged Chough** nests, clearly not in use in this season, but eventually we came upon a flock of more than a dozen choughs themselves. These could well be the progeny of the ones filmed 'kidnapping' at Campbell Park by David Attenborough's team for the BBC "Life of Birds Series".

Coming out onto Telecom Road we walked for about 400m, but after recording only a single **Laughing Kookaburra**, we returned to the forest to be greeted by a spectacular mixed-feeding flock of **Buff-rumped**, **Yellow-rumped** and **Brown Thornbills**, **Varied Sittella**, **Yellow-faced Honeyeater**, **Spotted Pardalote** and a **Scarlet Robin** pair. Coming back to the very eastern edge of the reserve, a large fallen log in grassland just outside the boundary had a **Willie Wagtail** pair, **Australasian Pipit**, four **Flame Robins** and, perhaps the morning's highlight, a **Jacky Winter**. A species total of 35 is a good result for this season.

Bruce Lindenmayer

Saturday 17 May - Tallagandra State Forest

Eight members and visitors met at Spotlight, Queanbeyan, to carpool for the journey via Hoskinstown and Rossi to Lowden Forest Park, where the other 5 were waiting. A **Wedge-tailed Eagle** and **Brown Quail** were seen on the drive, while the early arrivals at Lowden had already seen a **Bassian Thrush**.

The pre-spotlighting walk was on the short Dead Cow Track. There was movement near the top of the eucalypts – **Red-Browed Treecreepers**, and then a flock of **Striated Thornbills** and a male **Golden Whistler**. As we reached the end of the track, two **Bassian Thrush** gave everyone stunning views as they hopped over the open area near the water wheel, set up in the 1950's to power a generator.

While we waited for darkness to descend, we had an early dinner. A can of cold soup won the Masterchef award for the evening.

Kathy and John took us through the procedures for spotlighting: where to stand, what we were looking for, and don't get your hopes up. Darkness came, and we started spotlighting the trees around the Thrush lawn. A Greater Glider after one minute - beautiful! About five minutes to the next one, which carefully arranged itself to show off the long, dark tail and the white underbelly. When we got to five gliders it was time to go. Radios checked, and out on the road.

Maybe 10 minutes to the first stop. The Ringtail Possum also arranged itself well – tail up (white tip, not bushy), head down, not black, clearly a different animal. Another 10 minutes to the second Ringtail. But the night was about **owls**. The sounds, recorded, of **Sooty**, **Southern Boobook** and **Powerful** were heard at a number of stops. No response. The final stop. First attempt, near the cars. No owl. The bottom of the hill, near the creek, had seen **Powerfuls** on previous trips, so more broadcasting. There was some excitement when Sugar Gliders were heard – the first for the evening - but not seen. "So thanks all, great night, the gliders and possums were great". One of the experienced owlers felt something in her waters, but there it stayed. "See you next time".

As the owlers approached the cars a distant "boo-book" interrupted their chat. Out with the speakers. The boo-booking stayed distant, but Linda, on her first COG excursion, had listened carefully to the instructions, and was watching the trees above the road. A silent B had flown in, clearly visible to all on a dead branch. The first owl Linda had seen. After a while it started calling. We drove off to with the two owls continuing their conversation.

John Giacon

Wednesday 21 May - Aranda Bushland and Frost Hollows

Twenty members and guests negotiated the traffic on William Hovell Drive to get to the foggy start of the outing.

Following the markers across the aptly named Frost Hollows we found a good array of birds. Both smaller species of **Cormorants**, **Little Black** and **Little Pied**, were perched on a dead tree by a dam while 4 **Purple Swamphens** grazed beside the dam, much to the surprise of members.

A good range of bush and grassland species were observed as the boundary to the bush area was approached. These included the first two **Scarlet Robins** and, right on the boundary, a **Speckled Warbler**. On the far side of the fence 2 more **Speckled Warblers** were noted. Our first **Buff-rumped Thornbills** and **Grey Fantails** were fluttering in the bushes on the far side of the fence in the vegetation remaining after a conflagration.

We moved up the hill, noting the decline in numbers and diversity of birds as we moved away from the boundary area. Numbers and variety

Questabird

[QuestaBird](#) is a fun new adventure app for mobile devices that gets kids (and adults too!) outdoors and experiencing the environment. Players join quests to photograph birds, earn gold, buy supplies, gain levels, build their collection and become Australia's highest-rated adventurers. The game uses real bird data, with all the known Australian species, along with GPS location tagging. Verified sightings are submitted to the Atlas of Living Australia to help protect our biodiversity.



As part of the COG's 50th anniversary, [QuestaBird](#) will include a special COG-sponsored "Gang-gang Cockatoo Quest" for the Canberra region, with special prizes, bonus gold, and the sightings coming directly to COG for follow-up.

To find out more log onto <http://www.questabird.com/>

Note: The game is currently available only on Android devices, with an iPhone version expected soon.

of birds increased as we descended the hill, perhaps suggesting that elevation rather than degree of incineration was determining the diversity. On the Caswell Drive side of the slope we noted more **Scarlet Robins**, **White-plumed Honeyeaters** (surprisingly far from water), **Brown-headed Honeyeaters** and **Golden Whistlers**.

Crossing back into the grassland a **Collared Sparrowhawk** caused much consternation and then some members found a large mixed flock including a **Yellow Thornbill**.

We totalled 39 species – several in both habitats.

Martin Butterfield

Sunday 25 May – Bungonia

It is many years since COG last visited Bungonia and it is now a national park with very good facilities, as well as a popular site for cavers. A party of 13, including four “novices”, gathered at the park entrance. Denis Wilson from Robertson led us to his favourite spots; firstly, the Lookdown, where we had spectacular views down to the Shoalhaven River, as well as the rather confronting view of the South Marulan limestone mine on the edge of the park. A **Wedge-tailed Eagle** patrolled the plateau and **Yellow-faced Honeyeaters** and an **Eastern Spinebill** flitted through the trees below. A few people had excellent views of a male **Superb Lyrebird** on a nearby bush track which also yielded a male **Golden Whistler** and an extremely obliging **Eastern Yellow Robin**.

After a visit to Adams Lookout, we walked the Orange Track, recommended as “good for birdwatching and koalas”. Tilly, the junior member of our party, was the official koala spotter, but it was not to be our lucky day. However, bird highlights included a **Red-browed Treecreeper** and a small party of **Varied Sittellas**.

Considering the very dry conditions at Bungonia, the total species count of 30 was quite respectable, and the new birders in particular had the opportunity to compare 3 species of thornbill, 2 treecreepers and a variety of honeyeaters.

Sue Lashko



kingfisher park
birdwatchers lodge

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COG 50th Photograph Exhibition

Vote for Canberra's Favourite Bird Photo 2014!

COG is holding a photographic exhibition highlighting the birds of the Canberra region and showcasing our many talented COG photographers. The exhibition will be to celebrate and promote our birds to the public. It will aim to not only raise awareness about the wonderful birds found in this region but promote COG as the organisation that works on behalf of conserving our birds and their habitat.

When: 30 June to 5 July 2014

Where: in the Exhibition Space on the first floor of the Legislative Assembly Building on Civic Square, London Circuit.

To engage the public in celebrating the birds on display at the exhibition we will be asking members of the public (including COG members) who visit to vote for the photo they like best. There will be a cash prize of \$500 for the photographer who wins the public vote for the winning photo and a runner's-up prize of \$250 for the photo that comes second in the public voting. There will also be a prize for one lucky person who is one of those who voted for the most popular photo.

STOP PRESS!

Organiser Neil Hermes advises that late entries will still be accepted. "With over 14 photographers entering about 40 high quality photos so far the completion promises to be a visual delight. Late entries please contact Neil Hermes ASAP. All registered photographers will be contacted with exhibition detail by email."



MUDBRICK COTTAGE—MALLACOOTA

Our mudbrick cottage (Blue Wren Cottage) is available for rental. It is set amongst the trees in Mallacoota, Victoria (approximately 4 hours drive from Canberra). 10 minutes walk to the beach, 5 minutes walk to the golf course and about 15 minutes walk to town. It sleeps 4-6 upstairs and there is a sofa bed downstairs. It is fully self-contained with a kitchen and laundry.

Contact: Barbara de Bruine (02) 6258 3531, or
barbdebruine@hotmail.com

DEUA TIN HUTS (Via Braidwood)

Comfortable accommodation on the door-step of the Deua National Park at Krawarree via Braidwood NSW. Three cosy huts accommodating up to 14 people.

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COG Trips

At the start of each trip, and before proceeding on the trip, each participant must sign a COG Field Trip Registration Form, which acknowledges the participant's responsibilities as follows:

- I declare I am capable of undertaking this trip having: discussed with the Trip Leader any limitations I have (e.g. medications, physical), assessed the risks to myself and my property, and ensured I am adequately equipped.
- I will follow the instructions of the Field Trip Leader, and advise them before moving away from the group.

Changes to trips are notified on the trips page of the COG web-site

<http://canberrabirds.org.au/>

and on the COG chat-line at:

[http://
bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/
archives/html/
canberrabirds/2012-03/
index.html](http://bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/archives/html/canberrabirds/2012-03/index.html)

A reminder that COG has a long-standing policy to give preference to members for field trips that can accommodate only a limited number of people.

Future Field Trips

Friday 6 to Monday 9 June - Deua Tin Huts

The June long weekend trip Deua Tin Huts is now full. If you wish to go on a waiting list in case of late withdrawals, contact Sue Lashko at smlashko@gmail.com

Saturday 14 June - Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve- Superb Lyrebird survey

Since the January 2003 bushfires Peter Fullagar and Chris Davey have been monitoring the return of the **Superb Lyrebird** to an area of the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. They wish to get an idea of the present distribution within the Reserve and are calling for expressions of interest from COG members to join them at 8.00am to walk the trails and to record the location of calling birds. Depending on the trails walked the survey should take about three hours.

This outing will be a repeat of the very successful surveys conducted at this time of the year since 2004. If interested and for further details please contact Chris Davey on 62546324 (h), email chris_davey@aapt.net.au

Wednesday 18 June – Lyneham Ridge

The June walk will be to Lyneham Ridge, meeting at 9am on the western section of Salkauskas Crescent.

Saturday 21 June to Sunday 22 June - Moruya area

In association with the Eurobodalla Natural History Group this weekend outing will visit local estuaries, lakes, beaches and rainforest of the Moruya area. After a drive down on Friday evening, 20 June (3 hours from Canberra), we will visit various local birding spots starting early Saturday morning with a return to Canberra after lunch on Sunday.

Accommodation will be at BIG4 Moruya Heads East Dolphin Beach Caravan Park, see <http://turu.com.au/parks/nsw/illawarra---south-coast/eurobodalla-coast/big4-moruya-heads-east-dolphin-beach.aspx> for details, with camping sites and cabins available. The caravan park will be our base for this outing. Bring along some appropriate food for a BBQ on Saturday night after which we plan to go spotlighting for gliders and owls.

Contact Chris Davey chris_davey@aapt.net.au or 62546324 for further information or to register your interest.

Sunday 6 July - Bird Watching by Bike – Mulligan's Flat & Goorooyarroo

Bird watching by bicycle is a great way to explore larger areas and to find those winter mixed feeding flocks. Come and explore the trails of Mulligan's Flat and Goorooyarroo Nature Reserves by bike, some of the best woodland habitats in the Canberra area. You will need your own off-road capable bike (mountain bike or similar) and a reasonable level of fitness. Off road cycling ability is essential. Bird watching expertise is optional. The trails we will explore are all vehicular management trails which are mostly in good condition and gently sloping although there are a few short steeper sections and some rough parts.

Meet at the car park at the main entrance to Mulligan's Flat, Amy Ackman St, Forde at 8:00am. To participate, please contact Duncan McCaskill by email at: duncan.mccaskill@gmail.com

Saturday 19 July – Percival Hill and Ginninderra Creek

Meet at 9.00 am for a guided walk on Percival Hill and surrounds. People coming from the south should enter Gundaroo Drive from the Barton Highway. In about 500m you come to the Crace roundabout. Go through the roundabout and IMMEDIATELY mount the kerb to the left before you reach the information sign. Go down the dirt track and stop near the little concrete bunker just ahead of you. (Coming from the north on Gundaroo Drive, go round Crace roundabout and do the same thing.) If you prefer to park in Crace, it's only a short walk back across Gundaroo Drive.

We will walk around the forested areas of the hill and descend to Gungahlin Pond, cross the dam wall and return to the cars along Ginninderra Creek. If time and inclination permit, we could make a short detour to Gungahlin Pond if there are interesting water birds. There's a good new coffee shop in Crace.

John Harris

Saturday 9 August – Lake Ginninderra Beginners' Outing

This is the second of our bird walks for 2014 that is aimed specifically at beginners. Meet Anthony Overs (bookings essential on 6254 0168 or anthony.overs@gmail.com) at 8.30am in the car park at the western end of Diddams Close on Ginninderra Peninsula (also known as Diddams Close Park - see Yellow Pages Map 38, ref A9). We will walk the shores of the peninsula around to the eastern side, then back to the car park along Diddams Close. We should be able to view several species of waterbirds up close, focusing on the identification features of the common species such as the various ducks, "waterhens" and cormorants. A variety of bush birds are also likely to be seen. Bring your binoculars and field guide.



Black-shouldered Kite at Kelly Swamp Photo: Julian Robinson

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 September – Eden pelagics

COG has booked the weekend of September 6 and 7 for two one-day pelagic trips. The outings leave from Eden Harbour in the early morning (time to be confirmed), and return mid-afternoon. Each trip can accommodate 12 people, and the cost per person per trip will be \$100.

Organising travel and accommodation will be each individual's responsibility but there may be opportunities for car-pooling and an informal get-together for dinner/drinks in Eden on the Friday and Saturday evenings.

Bookings will only be confirmed when full payment is received. Payment must be made by June 30. These trips need to be fully subscribed to ensure COG does not make a loss, and as is the case with all paid trips, preference is given to COG members. Once you've booked and paid, no refunds can be given unless a replacement can be found.

As with all boating activities the trip will be weather dependent and rough seas could lead to the cancellation or postponement of the trip.

Please book with Sandra Henderson (shirmax2931@gmail.com) and indicate which day you prefer (Saturday or Sunday). Payment by direct deposit to COG's bank account is preferred – details will be sent to those who express interest. These trips often fill up fast, so if interested please book early.



Shy Albatross on a COG pelagic

Photo: Julian Robinson

New on COG's Website

New facilities and information are regularly added to the COG website.

It's worth checking *Latest News* on the home page every now and again — although this is mainly used to highlight general COG news, *Latest News* also points out recently added website features and information.

[Online subscription renewal form](#)

— the easiest way to renew your COG subs if you have electronic banking. (Click above link or go to *About COG* then *Join COG (or renew)*).

[Online Incidental Record form](#)

— a simpler way of entering incidental records of interesting sightings to the COG database. This form complements the more comprehensive [Atlas form](#) that should still be used for lists and surveys. Alternatively you can enter your lists or incidental records to eBird or Birdlife Australia's Birddata, both [linked on the website](#). (Click on above link or go to *Observing & Reporting Birds / How to Report*)

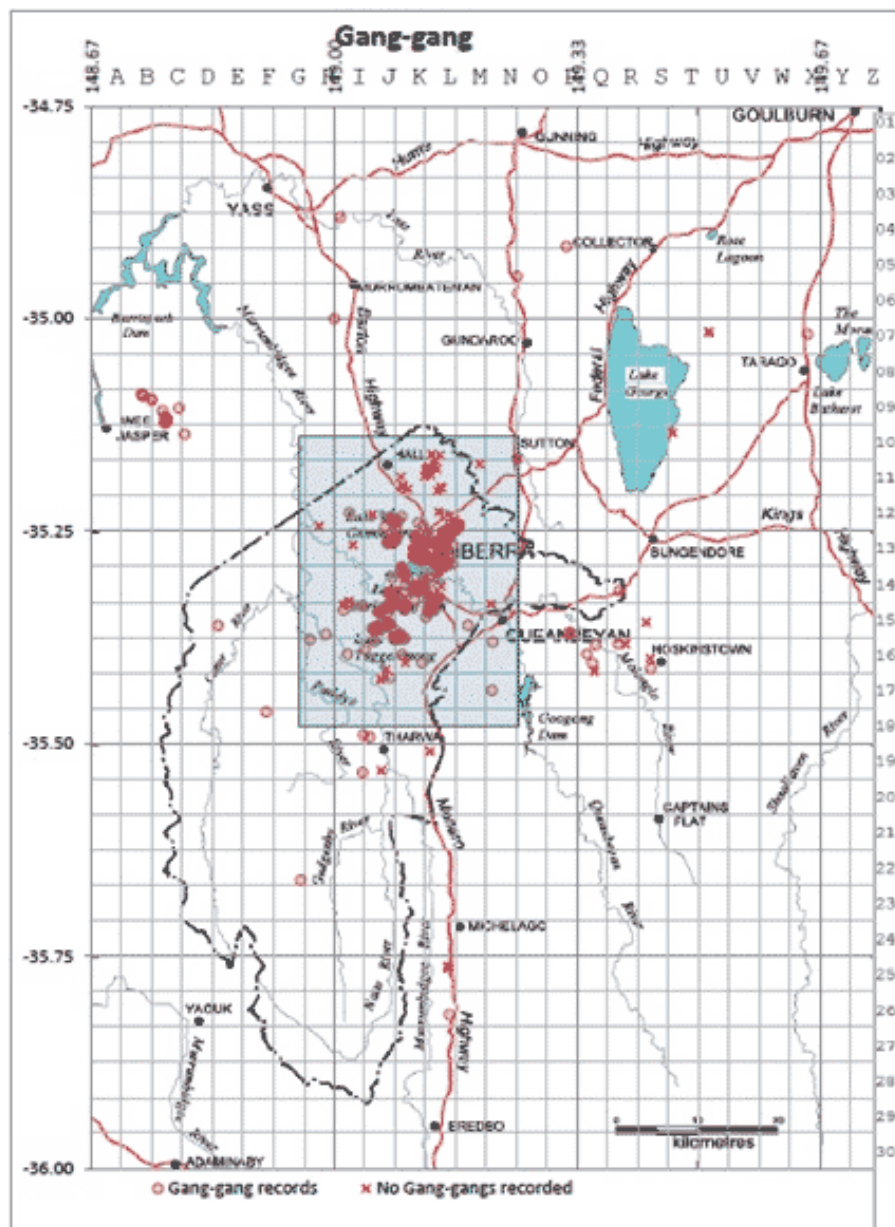
[Canberra Birds Statistics](#) will soon display distribution, breeding and reporting rate information for each of our local birds, based on the data accumulated in COG's Atlas. These pages are still being developed but should be available in the next month or two. For a preview, go to [Birdfinder](#) and look for the link in the Pied Currawong's 'Data' column.

Gang-gang Cockatoo Project Update—May 2014

Sightings

Many thanks to all contributors for another great month of records and to Anne Carrick for data entry. At this stage (25 May) the number of observations is greater than the previous month (270 obs v 249 obs). To date there have been 1100 on-line records from 300 contributors with an additional 320 records from other sources bringing the total observations to over 1420 since the survey commenced in February.

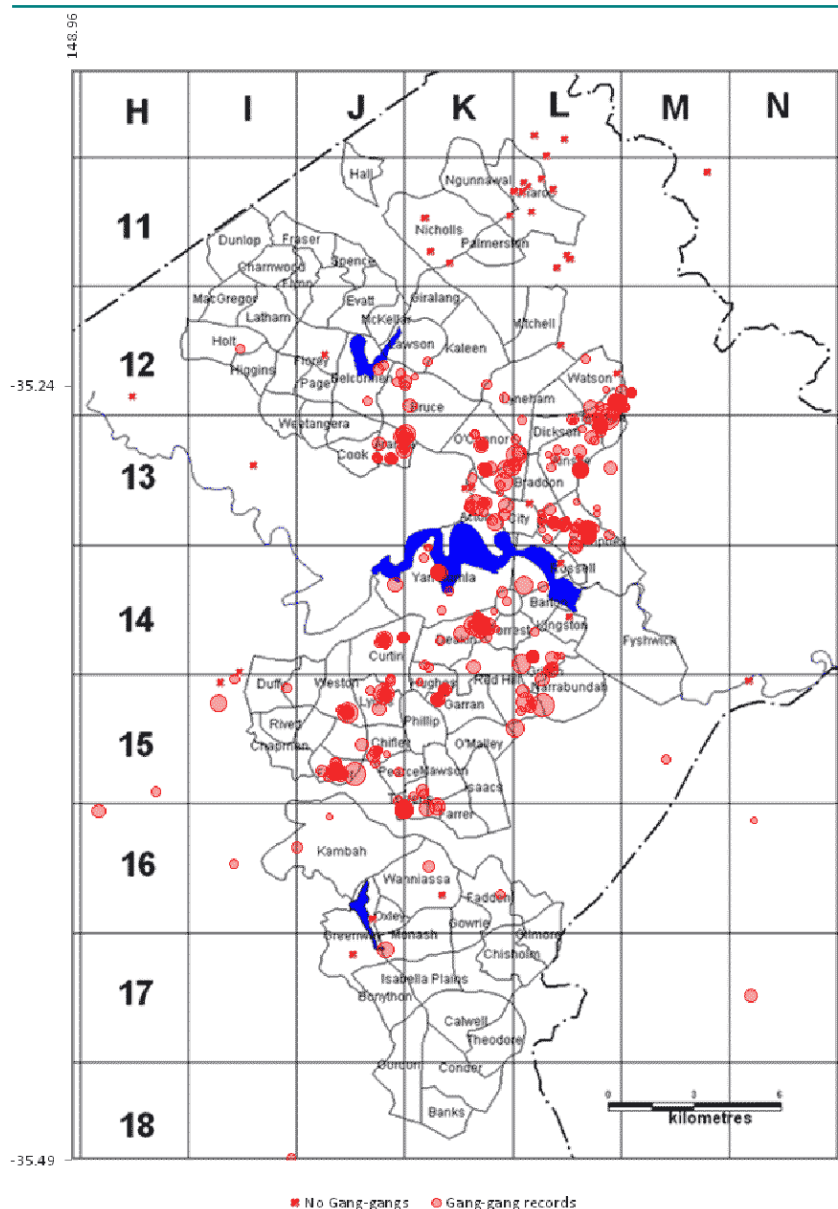
With thanks to Steve Wallace for plotting the observations and to Nicki Taws for providing the base maps, the distribution of records for March is shown below. The first map shows the March records from the COG area of interest with an X indicating records where no Gang-gangs were observed. The second map is of the urban area and shows in more detail the Gang-gang distribution. For both maps each point represents an observation; the larger the dot size the greater the number of birds observed. It should be noted that the intensity of the dot colour increases with additional records from the same point.



For May the most frequent feeding reports are of birds at feed tables or in Liquidambar or Hawthorn. As winter approaches it will be most interesting to see if there is a change in the distribution and feeding pattern. The largest number reported on-line at any one time was 20 birds at Lyons with the average group size at 3.5 birds, similar to the previous month. On average there were just over 9 observations/day reported to the on-line data entry portal provided by Atlas of Living Australia.

May Muster

At the time of writing we are in the middle of the 21-27 May Muster so as yet there is nothing to report. We have however had excellent media coverage (print, ABC radio and TV) ahead and during the Muster Count. This media interest demonstrates that a handsome bird with a quirky call can out-compete noisy pollies and their Budget chatter. Tim the Yowie Man penned a fabulous article in the Canberra Times Panorama and the regular spots in Ian Warden's Gang-Gang column have also roused a few letter writers. Thanks to teachers Eva Bugledich at Campbell High School and Megan Mears at North Ainslie Primary for promoting the Muster within their schools,



and also local Scout leaders Graham Downie and Phil Greaves who have encouraged their scouts and venturers to participate in the Muster Count. Work is also underway on design of an art competition for interested schools where students will be encouraged to use a medium of choice to creatively explore the Gang-gang Cockatoo. Once again, the project team is interested in hearing from COG members who are involved with local schools and scout groups and who they think might be interested in learning more about the Gang-gang survey and allied activities.

Please also note that the June COG meeting is a special presentation on the Night Parrot so the Red Box will not be available to receive either the Muster Forms or the Gang-gang data sheets. Either post your paper forms to Gang-gang Survey, PO Box 310 Civic Square, ACT 2608 or hold on to them until the July meeting.

If you are unsure how to participate in the Gang-gang survey, details of how to contribute can be found at <http://canberrabirds.org.au/observing-birds/gang-gang-survey/>. If you have any queries please email to gquery@canberrabirds.org.au

The GG Project survey team



Allopreening Gang-gangs

Photo: Julian Robinson



Landscapes for Birds – conserving and enhancing their habitats

A free public Forum in celebration of COG's 50th Anniversary year

Saturday 5 July 2014

1.30pm - 4.30pm Arrival and registration from 1pm

ACT Legislative Assembly, Reception Room, London Circuit, CIVIC, ACT
(Public Entrance in Civic Square - next to the fountain)

Birds habitats are under threat and some species continue to decline in our region against a background of loss of habitats and other factors, including urban expansion into greenfields. Connectivity of habitats so birds and other animals can move across the landscape is critical, particularly against a background of a changing climate. This Forum will focus on the importance of landscape scale conservation and restoration/enhancement of habitats for birds, including citizen science studies, research, community/landholder engagement and on the ground work in the ACT and nearby NSW. Contemporary issues impacting on habitat conservation such as loss of connectivity, offsets policies and loss of mature trees will also be discussed.

Speakers will include: Dr Adrian Manning, Australian National University (Fenner School); Dr Veronica Doerr, CSIRO; Rainer Rehwinkel, Office of Environment & Heritage (NSW Government); Nicki Taws, Greening Australia ACT; Chris Davey Canberra Ornithologists Group

An exhibition of bird photographs by COG members in the Exhibition room upstairs will be open from 30 June to 5 July, and can be viewed prior to the Forum.

This Forum is hosted by Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG).
Mick Gentleman, MLA, will open the Forum.

How to book/register: Seats can only be reserved through on-line booking - go to the COG website (www.canberrabirds.org.au 'Latest News'). Otherwise, seats will be subject to availability on the day. The venue has 100 seat capacity.



CANBERRA ORNITHOLOGISTS GROUP INC

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION

2014-2015



INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

1. Membership fees are **\$40 single** and **\$45 for family membership** for the 2014-2015 year. Fees are due on 1st July 2014 for most existing members - check your *Gang-gang*/CBN label to confirm when your membership expires.

2. You can pay by **cash or cheque** at the meetings, by **cheque/money order** through the post (not cash), or by **Electronic fund transfer (EFT)** as below. If by post, mail your payment to:

The Secretary
Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc
PO Box 301
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

3. **Electronic fund transfer (EFT)** is available to new and renewing members. If you pay your subscription by EFT please notify Sandra Henderson at cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au and include the completed application form (new members), or any changes in contact details (renewals). Ensure your initials and surname are on the transfer – if we cannot identify your payment your membership may lapse.

Transfer funds to:

Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc
St George Bank
A/C number 050111462
BSB 112-908

Title	Name		
Street Address		Town / Suburb	State
Telephone Home	Work	Mobile	Email address

***Family memberships: List names of all family members covered by membership**

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- ☐ **Individual - \$40**
- ☐ **Institution - \$40**
- ☐ *** Family - \$45**
- ☐ **Student (18yrs or under) - \$20**
- ☐ **Canberra Birds Conservation Fund Donation \$** (tax deductible; receipt will be issued)
- Total \$** *(office use only)*

If you would prefer to read either or both of the following COG publications on the COG website in lieu of receiving a printed copy, please tick the appropriate box(es) and you will be notified by email when it is uploaded to the web:

- ☐ **Gang-gang**
- ☐ **Canberra Bird Notes (CBN)**

Canberra Birds Conservation Fund

Donations to this fund are tax deductible. Funds are used to support projects that protect and enhance native birds and the environments that sustain them.

COG membership

2014-2015 memberships:

- Singles: \$40
- Family: \$45
- Institution: \$40
- School student (under 18) \$20

New members

COG welcomes the following new members:

H Schranz, Palmerston
H Box, Hackett
P Wenger, Holder
E Keen, Braidwood
C Davis, Cooma
T Sherman, Narrabundah
G Usher, Ainslie
and welcomes back
I. Anderson of Narrabundah
after a lengthy absence from
COG.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for July 2014 edition

Wednesday 25 June 2014

**Please send articles, advertisements, updates
etc. to the Editors at:**

gang-gang@canberrabirds.org.au Or

**c/- The Secretary COG, PO Box 301 Civic
Square, ACT 2608**

Articles should be less than 500 words (300 for reports of 1-day field trips) except by prior arrangement with the editor.

Photographs (prints or electronic) with or without articles are encouraged.

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Civic Square, ACT 2608

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www.canberrabirds.org.au

COG library

For all enquiries or access to COG's library
phone Barbara Allan on
6254 6520

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Gang-gang Newsletter

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Lay-out Editor: Gail Neumann

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Dianne Davey

COG E-mail Discussion List

COG has an email discussion list for members and friends: 'Canberra Birds'.

Join the list by following the links on the COG website or by sending an empty email message to;

canberrabirds-subscribe@canberrabirds.org.au

The subject is 'subscribe' (without the quotation marks).

Canberra Bird Notes

Editor: Michael Lenz

lenzmj@hotmail.com.au



Gang-gang

If undeliverable, please return to

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Civic Square ACT 2608

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