



Gang-gang

June 2003

News letter of the Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc.

JUNE MEETING

Wednesday 11 June

Details pg 3

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Word of the month

Pulveratricious...

an adjective meaning 'like birds that roll themselves in dust,' usually used as a fancy way of saying 'dust-coloured.'

Where to watch birds this month

Cold relief

Sick of the cold already? Try birding Burrewarra Point this month.

Turn off George Bass Drive at Guerilla Bay about 20 km south of Batemans Bay and drive up to the carpark at the end of Buri Point Road. The walking track leaves from the South East corner.

The first part of the walk is through *Banksia serrata* woodland. **Brown** and **Striated Thornbills** are the best bet here. After 50 meters, you will reach a small patch of *Callitris* (Cypress pine). Look around for **White-eared Honeyeaters** and perhaps a **Rose Robin**. Continuing along the track, past the good northerly views, you will come to a large Bangalay Gum tree overhanging the track. Pause here in the gloom for **Yellow Robins**. The treetop may have a **Yellow-faced Honeyeater** or two.

The track continues on under some large *Banksias* (often favoured by a dwindling flock of **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos**) and then dips a little and a more open area is reached. Here you have a very good

chance of seeing some **Variegated Wrens**. The males will be anxious to show off their newly acquired plumes. **White-browed Scrubwrens** will scold you from the bracken while, if the sun is out, you may see **Spotted Pardalotes**, **Grey Fantails** and a **Grey Shrike-thrush**. This is also a good area for **Eastern Whipbirds**. Be sure to follow up any calls, these birds are used to people and will probably hop into view.

Move on to a kink in the track where the trees change to predominately *Banksia integrifolia*. These winter flowering trees should be covered in bloom by now. Each tree is vigorously defended by a **Little Wattlebird**. **Red Wattlebirds** and **Rainbow Lorikeets** noisily compete for space at the banquet while **New Holland Honeyeaters** and **Eastern Spinebills** dart in to feed at any unguarded flowers.

Walking tracks lead from the lighthouse to rocky lookouts at the end of the point. The track to the south passes through some open *Lomandra*. Here you may encounter

the local Magpies or hear the rollicking call of a **Grey Butcherbird**. The southern lookout (not for the fainthearted!) gives unrivalled views of the southern coastline. Look down to the rocks for **Sooty Oystercatcher** and the elusive **Reef Heron (Eastern Reef Egret)**. There is a good chance **White-fronted Terns** will be feeding over the breaking waves while cormorants dive just beyond the white water. Check for seals floating just beyond the rocks with their flippers warming in the morning sun.

Out to sea there will be albatrosses gliding in the troughs of the waves. They are at their best when a southerly change has whipped up a big sea. **Wandering Albatross** and **Southern Giant Petrel** are frequent visitors, while **Black-browed** and **Yellow-nosed Albatross** are usually present. Positive I.D. requires much patience (or a good telescope) as they are often well out to sea. **Pointy winged Gannets** will circle past while eventually a **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** will soar into view and make your whole day worthwhile.

Tom Green

From your Committee

MEMBERSHIP FEES are due from 1 July.

Some members have already paid for next year. Please do not pay again. You can tell from the label on your Gang-gang/CBN or by checking with me whether you need to pay or not. If your label says "subscription year 2002-2003" your membership runs out on 30 June 2003.

Please use the renewal form on Page 17 of this Gang-gang when paying. Then we can be sure we have your up to date details and a record of your payment. **Why not consider changing to an emailed version of Gang-gang (it's in colour)?**

If you intend not to renew, please let me know so that we do not waste members' funds on continuing to send out things to after your membership has expired. We give members not renewing quickly after 1 July the benefit of the doubt (ie that they are simply late in renewing and leave them on our mailing list for some time). This is an expensive exercise if they do not then renew their memberships.

Why not take this opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation to the Canberra Birds Conservation Fund? You can use the membership form to do this.

Joan Lipscombe, Treasurer, ph 6262 7975, joanlipscombe@bigpond.com

NEWS FROM COMMITTEE MEETING 21 MAY 2003

Protection of woodlands. We continue to fight to protect the East O'Malley Woodland and to minimise the potential harmful impact on Mulligan's Flat Nature Reserve of planned housing developments in North Gungahlin. Whatever the final outcome of these specific issues COG will continue to work constructively with the ACT Government to achieve long-term protection of those declining woodland areas and other issues vital to the survival of many woodland birds in the ACT.

Proposed new Defence Headquarters near Bungendore. COG has agreed to provide relevant bird data for a fee to the company developing the EIS for the proposed site.

Donations to Birds Australia appeal for HANZAB. The committee decided not to donate directly from COG funds for this appeal, but to encourage members to do so individually so that they could benefit from tax deductibility.

Donations to Birds Australia for HANZAB

Many of you will know of the fabulous HANZAB volumes being produced by Birds Australia. Six volumes of the seven volume series are now completed. The seventh is well underway.

Alas, Birds Australia is desperately short of funds to complete this important work. It has launched an appeal to raise \$800 000.

This is a good time to give.

Donations are tax deductible, so that you can get a tax refund soon.

Send your donation - cheque (payable to Birds Australia Research Fund), or credit card (Bankcard, Visa or Mastercard) - to HANZAB at Birds Australia, 415 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn East VIC 3123.

You should include a note indicating that the donation is towards the completion of the final volume of HANZAB.

Please give generously to this valuable project.

It helps "to ensure that we have the information we need to find solutions to the problems that face our bird populations today, and in years to come".

If you prefer to use the official form for donations there will be copies on the sales table at the next COG general meeting.

Early advice of COG's Xmas Party. We are planning a quiz night for this years December meeting. So keep your diaries clear so that you can join us of a wonderful evening of fun and humour on December 10.

Resignation from the committee of David Rosalky. The committee has regretfully accepted David's resignation from the committee. He has recently been appointed to Board member of the ACT Land Development Agency, which is the government owned "company" actually developing the land allocated to it by the Government, and wished to avoid a potential conflict of interest. *Congratulations, David,* on your new appointment and thank you for your valuable contribution to the committee over the last couple of years. Keep coming to COG's meetings and outings.

Field Trip Reports

“Garuwanga” via Nimmitabel camp-out; 25-27 April

Members who associate Nimmitabel with cold weather, wide open plains and the occasional patch of stunted snow gums would be amazed at the variety of habitats and landforms, as well as the size and the density of some of the trees that occur on “Garuwanga”. Garuwanga is the property of long time COG members Geoff Robertson and Margaret Ning, only 10 km to the north east of Nimmitabel. Any concerns about weather being too cold round Anzac Day were also soon overcome by the warmth of their hospitality.

Perhaps it was also due to the previous Easter long weekend that

only 5 other members joined me on this camp-out. We spent the weekend exploring the variety of habitats on the property for their bird life, including the open grassland and shrubland, snow gum woodland, large patches of forest, the *Casuarina nana* heathland and rocky outcrops as well as spots on the Kydra (Numeralla) River on the northern boundary.

In spite of the season, and parts of the property being rather quiet, we managed to record over 40 species for the weekend. Highlights were the **Crested Shrike-tit** (good views for all), **Grey Currawong**, **Red-browed Treecreeper** and the **Spotted Quail-thrush**, which disappeared quickly while only a few had seen it. A **Superb Lyrebird** imitated a grey currawong perfectly before decamping when it spotted us. We also added 4 new species to the bird list for the property, **Common Blackbird** (on the river), **Noisy Miner**, **Varied Sittella** and **Crescent Honeyeater**. While the last named could be heard calling at a number places, including in the still flowering silver banksia, typically it was difficult to see and only fleeting glimpses were obtained. While we searched hard for hooded robins, which are known to occur on the property, none was seen.

The weekend was not only about birds and we learnt about the vegetation, particularly the grasses, forbs, flowering plants and smaller shrubs. Here the expertise of Geoff and grasslands expert Rainer Rehwinkel (a co-author of the book *Grassland Flora – A Field Guide for the Southern Tablelands*) proved invaluable. We examined and identified many of the species occurring at Garuwanga. To my untrained eyes the similarity in appearance of many of the native grasses and broad-leaved species with the introduced weeds was surprising.



JUNE MEETING

8 pm

Wednesday 11th

*Canberra Girls Grammar School
cnr Gawler Cres and Melbourne
Ave, Deakin*

Short talk on COG's Garden Bird Survey will be given by **Philip Veerman**. Philip will update us on recent findings from the survey and encourage new participants. Charts for the coming year will also be available at the meeting or from the COG office.

Main speaker will be **Dr Mike Double**, a geneticist and behavioural ecologist with the School of Botany and Zoology at the ANU. The talk entitled **Albatrosses: identification, speciation and conservation**, will be on the population genetics and problems of the albatrosses which frequent the Australian Fishing Zone. Mike did his PhD at Leicester University on the reproductive behaviours of the European starling. He moved to the ANU in 1995 and in 1997, Environment Australia began funding his work on albatrosses caught by long-line fishing.

Should be a great night..look forward to seeing you there.

On Saturday afternoon we visited the Kybeyan area where a rare gum (*Eucalyptus parvifolia*) and wattle occur, both of which have very localised occurrence and a restricted range.

Thank you very much Geoff and Margaret for inviting COG and



COG Field trip to 'Sherwood'
historic site (near Uriarra Pine
Forest. Sunday 15 September 2002.
Photo courtesy of **David McDonald**

making us so welcome. By necessity the weekend was only a snapshot of the area and the birds that occur there and we're very keen to take up invitation to come again and add further to the properties bird list. This should probably occur in late spring to maximise the number of migrants and breeding activity.

Jack Holland

**Enchanted Hill outing.
Sunday 18th May 2003.**

Fourteen people attended the Enchanted Hill outing. We started at the layby 2.6 km sth of the Johnson St roundabout at Calwell. The paddock between the Cooma highway and the railway is public land and agisted with cattle for part of each year. It has four public-access gates along about 3 kms of the road and is a good birding site.

We saw (or heard) 31 species. It was cool, overcast and the ground was almost bare. The numbers for each species were much lower than in a good season. The highlights were **Brown-headed Honeyeaters**, a **Crescent Honeyeater**, a **Speckled Warbler**, a **Diamond Firetail** and 7 **Scarlet Robins**.

We walked 2.5 km north along the railway to "Melrose Valley". Hooded Robins have been reported there for 12 years and 4 were seen at the Monk's Creek stockyards on 10th May. We were met by Harold Adams, the leaseholder, at the site of the railway camp. The settlement had 200 men in 1887 and it took two years to complete McAlister's cutting, Rocky Crossing and other works. He has put up a commemorative plaque and interpreted the heritage elements of the site for us. He reviewed the status of birds at the farm over the last 17 years and noted a significant drop in species and flock numbers. This is despite the fact that he has planted extensive tree corridors. He felt that large flocks of Pied Currawongs and Common Mynas were to blame. He was an amenable host and invited

COG members to visit again. He also suggested a walk to Pemberton, a large hilly timbered area to the north of his farm. The visit was more an introduction to the site, rather than an intensive survey and participants enjoyed the morning.

Bill Graham

THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU

To John Goldie, leader of the Easter Campout to Round Hill, and all the COG members there who assisted in so many ways after my accident. Your caring concern and practical aid were most sincerely appreciated. With surgery behind me now comes several months of physiotherapy.

FOUND FOUND. Meantime I am holding a blue checked onkaparinga 100% wool rug. Would the owner please contact me 6288 7563.

Margaret Aston

**Future Field
Trips**

First of all a big THANK YOU to everyone who responded to my request for suggestions (and leaders!) for replacement outings for those trips that are no longer viable due to the 18 January bushfires. As a result I have now been able to fit in a number of outings extra to those published in the COG 2003 Field Trips program, and we will be visiting a number of places that COG has not previously been to. Several also combine birdwatching with natural or cultural history. This is part of an effort to present a diverse program, so that there is something of interest for most members. Details of the first of these may be found below, and

others will follow over the next couple of months. It has made for a rather ad hoc program for 2003, I promise more stability for 2004!

KIOLOA; QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND, 7-9 JUNE

This will be a relaxing time down at the coast staying the ANU's Kioloa Coastal Campus. Three cottages have been booked for a total of 18 members/guests, with all bottom bunk accommodation. The Campus is set in a cleared area surrounded by eucalypt and rain forest, casuarina and coastal heath, a tidal creek and salt marsh. Together with a relatively unspoilt sandy beach, it offers the opportunity to see a wide array of birds, and over 140 species have been recorded for the area, including **Superb Lyrebirds**, which should be active at the time. Expect the unexpected in this mix of habitats. A **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** has nested there for over ten years. The manager is keen for COG to help put together his bird list. When COG last stayed there on the same weekend 4 years ago a total of 63 species was seen, highlights being the **Scarlet Honeyeater**, **Little Penguins** and **Doubled-banded Plovers**.

Accommodation costs will \$55 per person including the COG administration fee. Participants will need to bring their own food, bottom sheet, pillow slip and sleeping bag/other bedding.

At the publication deadline for the June Gang-gang there were still plenty of places left. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jack Holland on 6288 7840 (AH) or by E-mail on jack.holland@ea.gov.au as soon as possible. While Jack is doing the organising, a leader who knows the area well and who is able to assist on

the actual weekend would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Jack if you are able to help.

MORNING WALK - EAST O'MALLEY WOODLAND; SUNDAY 15 JUNE

Many COG members will be aware of the controversial proposal to commence the building of houses in this part of the Canberra woodland system. However, it is unclear how many members have actually visited this site, and it is likely most would only be vaguely aware of where it is through driving past on Hindmarsh Drive. To better inform COG members Dick Schodde (6281 3732) has agreed to lead this walk, which will allow an expert to explain the values of the site, in particular its population of Blakely's red gum and other trees as well as its birdlife. A number of declining birds such as the **Scarlet Robin**, **Southern Whiteface** and **Speckled Warbler** are found in the area. Meet Dick at the top of

Callemonda Rise at 9.30 am for a couple of hours stroll though this area.

MORNING/EARLY AFTERNOON WALK - TINDERRY NATURE RESERVE; SUNDAY 22 JUNE

Many members will be familiar with the Tinderries, which rise steeply from the plain east of Michelago. Yet access to the relatively new Tinderry Nature Reserve, and its birdlife, is not well known. One of the best places to get into the Reserve is the SE corner, off the Tinderry Road. We will be doing a 5-6 km return walk along a relatively flat track in the Round Flat area of the reserve, where birds are surprisingly abundant in winter, looking in particular for **Superb Lyrebirds** (many should be active), **Wonga Pigeons** and **Spotted Quail-thrush**. At the end of this track there is a good stand of *Banksia marginata*, which if still flowering



Eastern Spinebill
(*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*)
Photo courtesy of **Geoffrey Dabb**

could contain **Crescent and/or New Holland Honeyeaters**.
Meet Jack Holland (6288 7840 AH)

or by E-mail on jack.holland@ea.gov.au) at the service station at the Calwell Shopping Centre at 8.00 am, for car pooling etc prior to a further hour or so drive. This area is around 1100 metres above sea level and can be quite cold, and while we won't be walking along any exposed areas, **appropriate clothing should be taken.** We will either be having lunch on the walk, or back at the cars on return, and may visit some other spots in the area if time allows.

WEEKEND SWIFT PARROT SEARCH -BOOROWA AREA; WEEKEND 5-6 JULY

Each winter swift parrots migrate from their breeding grounds in Tasmania to the mainland in search of their favourite food, nectar from eucalypt blossoms. Anthony Overs, assisted by Stuart Harris, will lead this weekend trip based around Boorowa, about 90 minutes NNW of Canberra. Both know the area well, and a number of known swift parrot habitats on public land or travelling

stock reserves will be visited. It is also likely that a few landholders will be willing to allow COG onto their properties. This should allow access to the most likely flowering ironbarks and other eucalypt species to maximise the chances of seeing this endangered species. There should also be opportunities to see some other good woodland birds (**Turquoise Parrot, White-browed and Grey-crowned Babbler, Hooded Robin, Diamond Firetail, Little Lorikeet, Black-chinned Honeyeater**) that can be found near Boorowa.

This will be a weekend outing, staying overnight at the Boorowa Blue Metal Motel (02 6385 3186) or the adjacent historic Boorowa Hotel (02 6385 3000). Alternatively there is accommodation at the Boorowa Caravan Park (02 6385 3658), about 1 km north of the town. **Participants will need to make their own bookings** but it is proposed a meal will be taken together on the Saturday night at a local venue.

Alternatively participants may wish to drive up for the day (an early start would be needed on Sunday 6 July). To register your interest please call Anthony Overs, who will be leading and organising this outing, on 6254 0168 (H) or by E-mail on Anthony.Overs.reps@aph.gov.au.

ALL DAY WALK - GRASSY CREEK/YAOUK VALLEY AREA; SUNDAY 20 JULY

On this trip we will visit the southern extremity of the ACT, repeating an enjoyable winter 1994 outing. Our goal will be to see what birds stay through the winter in that high (1,300 metres altitude), cold, harsh environment, and to obtain winter records there for COG's data base and Birds Australia's Ongoing Atlas Project. We will drive to the Grassy Creek and Yaouk Valleys (70 km one way), visiting snow gum forests, open grassland and fascinating reminders of the lifestyles of the early pastoralists in that locality. Unlike the Wombat/Parrot Roads, where we were scheduled to visit, this area was not affected by the 18 January fires.

Meet the trip leader David McDonald at the Kambah Village shopping centre car park (cnr Drakeford Drive & Marconi Crescent, Kambah) at 8.00 am for car pooling. We will return in the late afternoon, so bring plenty of water, lunch and be prepared for cold, wet weather. As David will be overseas until shortly before this outing, please register with Jack Holland (6288 7840 AH or by E-mail on jack.holland@ea.gov.au) for this walk.



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

(Calyptorhynchus funereus)

Photo courtesy of **Geoffrey Dabb**

WATERBIRDS FOR BEGINNERS MORNING - EAST BASIN/MOLONGLO RIVER; SUNDAY 3 AUGUST

This is our second outing for new members and/or beginners for 2003. It will be centred around a cruise of the upper parts of Lake Burley Griffin and the adjacent Molonglo River on the all electric "E.L. Cygnet". As noted in the article in the May 2003 edition of Gang-gang, this area is rich in waterbirds and the boat allows both a quiet approach as well as access to areas normally difficult to get to. The identification features of the common species such as the various ducks, "waterhens" and cormorants will be pointed out, and we will also be on the look out for any nesting activity in the willows along the riverbank. The boat trip will last about 2 hours and will cost \$20, payable in cash on boarding.

Please register your interest with Jack Holland (6288 7840 AH or by E-mail on jack.holland@ea.gov.au). Depending on the level of interest (the boat takes a maximum of 10 passengers) there may need to be an early and late shift, with possibly also some birding done from the shore on East Basin. Participants will need to be at the Kingston Boat Harbour off Mundaring Drive by 8 am for the first shift. Note that this is an outing specifically designed for beginners and moderate observers, and it is proposed there will be a similar trip for more advanced bird watchers later in the year to look for nesting darters etc.

WEDNESDAY WALK – BOTANIC GARDENS; WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE

Meet at the bus shelter at 9.30 am in the main carpark of the Botanic Gardens. Note parking fees apply.

Easy walking in this lovely part of Canberra where birds concentrate due to the food available during winter. Hopefully the elusive **Crescent Honeyeater** in Section 100 will be advertising himself and the **Bassian Thrush** in the Rainforest Gully will still be there.

Longer trips

GLUEPOT, NEWHAVEN AND THE TOP END WITH EMU TOURS

Things have moved very quickly since the above trip was first advertised to Emu Tours' clients at the end of March, as well as in the April & May 2003 editions of Gang-gang, and the tour is now fully subscribed. It is no longer a COG only trip, though three COG members are booked for all or part of the tour. If there is any further interest, please contact Jack Holland (6288 7840 H) or by E-mail on jack.holland@ea.gov.au, who can provide you with a more detailed itinerary as well as contact details for Emu Tours in the event of any cancellation etc.

BUSH RETREAT-EXTENDED WINTER WEEKEND AT THE SOUTH COAST;

Thursday 14 -Sunday 17 August

A relaxing few days in comfortable, well appointed bush retreat accommodation on a property of around 80 acres of eucalypt forest backing onto Bournda Nature Reserve, only a few kilometres from Merimbula. A focus on activities based in and around the Merimbula area, a wonderful spot (and tourist free) in the winter. This time of year is much milder at the coast than

Canberra - there is a wealth of bird life in this area even in late winter.

This weekend is designed for a small group, and is an excellent opportunity to learn about the coastal forest, sea and water associated birds, especially to learn more about forest bird calls. The emphasis will be on walks during the day, evening relaxation on the sofa in the large lounge or on the covered deck around the barbecue with some good wines, and possibly some spotlighting after dark.

Jenny Bounds will organise and lead this weekend – she knows the area having visited there regularly since childhood. Arrival can be as early as Thursday afternoon (or alternatively on Friday pm). On Thursday evening, Jenny will be guest speaker at the Far South Coast Birdwatchers meeting, talking about southern African birds and showing slides from her 4 trips there – an added bonus to the weekend.

Activities likely to be organised include the Merimbula boardwalk and around the lake and beach (great for waders and waterbirds at low tide – Jenny saw a **Buff-banded Rail** there recently), the Pambula wetlands, the new Pambula to Pambula Beach walking track through lovely forest and a couple of the walks at Bournda NP, Ben Boyd NP or the South-East Forests NP. A boat trip on the lake is a possibility depending on cost and interest. There will be a minimum of driving around once there. Some of the activities will be jointly with the Far South Coast Birdwatchers.

Accommodation will be on a room share basis (2 or 3 to a room). Cost if all beds are taken, will be \$55 per person for up to 3 nights (up to \$76 per person if only a minimum number). There are well appointed bedrooms and all facilities, including a spa bath. You bring only linen,



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo

(Calyptorhynchus funereus)

Photo courtesy of **Geoffrey Dabb**

(doonas, blankets and pillows are supplied) and food. Some communal meals where everyone brings a dish to share will be organised, as well as barbecues. Car pooling can be facilitated for the trip down there for those interested (its around three hours drive).

A **Beach Stone-curlew** (Thick-knee) has been resident in the Pambula/Merimbula area for several months - it is now at Merimbula Lake, and we are hoping it will stay around until August.

NOTE: Those who have booked rooms need to send their deposit to COG asap please (\$25 per person, \$50 couple). Final payment details will be provided to everyone in the first week of July when the final number is confirmed – payment is due by 11 July, and can be paid at the COG meeting on 9 July or mailed to COG, PO Box 301, Civic Square,

2608. All bedrooms are provisionally booked, but there is the possibility of additional bed/s depending on gender, plus a wait list in case of cancellation. Enquiries about this event during June to Jack Holland please, Ph 6288 7840 (AH), from July Jenny Bounds 6288 7802 (AH).

COMBINED SHOREBIRD/PELAGIC OUTING CENTRED ON WOLLONGONG; 18-19 OCTOBER

A combined shorebird/pelagic outing centred on Wollongong will be held for the weekend of 18-19 October 2003. It is proposed participants will drive down from Canberra on the Saturday morning, with shore bird watching around Lake Illawarra and environs that afternoon, and with a full day's seabird outing on Sunday (approximately 7.00 am to 4.30 pm). Julie McGuinness and Sue Lashko will be the joint leaders for this trip.

The pelagic trip will be through the Southern Oceans Seabird Study Association Inc. (SOSSA), which provides private charter and guides to accommodate parties up to 22 persons in their vessel the Sandra K. The estimated cost per person will be between \$65 (including the \$4 COG admin fee) if we manage to fill the boat, and \$95 if there are only 15 participants. This will include two guides and all burlies, and will be finalised when the likely number of participants becomes clearer.

While Julie McGuinness/Sue Lashko will be the leaders on the day, Jack Holland (6288 7840 (AH) or by E-mail on jack.holland@ea.gov.au) is co-ordinating the arrangements. Please call him to register your interest or to obtain further information. Please note that this trip is expected to fill quickly, and it is recommended that you book early. A \$25 deposit made out to the Treasurer COG will ensure your place on the boat.

Participants will be provided with several options for accommodation and it is expected they will make their own bookings. Further information on SOSSA may be obtained from the following web sites:

<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~sossa/> or <http://sossa-international.org>.

URGENT notice

The end of the financial year .. and the end of COG's 2002-2003 bird year is nearly upon us. So dust off all those records which you haven't yet submitted, please, and pop them into the red box at the next monthly meeting or post them to the COG Office as soon as possible.

Other surveys/ Activities of Interest to COG Members

Walk to the Frost Hollows Grasslands..with Friends of Aranda Bushland

Sunday 8 June, 10am

Meet at the stiles on Caswell
Drive at William Hovell Drive
end. Contact: Ian Falconer
6251 1345

(part of the World
Environment Day (June 5)
activities program)

The next **COWRA WOODLAND
BIRD SURVEY** is scheduled for
14-15 June.

If any member wishes to participate,
please contact Sue Proust on
thebradybunch8@bigpond.com.

SWIFT/REGENT PARROT SURVEY WORKSHOP **6 July**

Debbie Saunders is running a
workshop on 6th July in Chiltern for
volunteers involved in the Swift/
Regent Parrot surveys. If COG
members are interested they are more
than welcome to attend the workshop
(similar to the workshop held in
Canberra in 2001) and camp out at
Chiltern NP. The workshop will
include a field visit to known
swift/regent parrot sites within the
park in the afternoon. If anyone is
interested, they can register their
interest with Debbie
(swiftparrots@yahoo.com.au or 1800
66 57 66) or Chris Tzaros
(Threatened Bird Network,
c.tzaros@birdsaustralia.com.au or 03
9882 2622).

MULLIGAN'S FLAT SURVEY Sunday 29 June

Jack Holland will be coordinating
this survey. Regular surveyors,
please let Jack know if you are
available a week before. Meeting
time is 8.15am (winter timing), at the
carpark/gate to the reserve off
Gundaroo Road. Wear sturdy shoes
and bring clipboard, pencil etc.
Please note, there will be no morning
tea organized for this survey, but
bring your own if you wish. Contact
Jack on Jack.Holland@ea.gov.au or
phone 6288 7840 after hours.

NEWLINER SURVEY – regular
surveyors note this will be **Sunday
6 July**, meeting at 8am at the site.
Jenny Bounds will confirm
arrangements with individuals the
week before.

ATLASSING EXCERPTS

..orWho's seen What Where

Snippets of interest taken from sheets
returned to the Records Officer.

As observers venture out into areas
burnt during January bushfires, an
increasing diversity of birds are
being seen.

David Landon has been regularly
visiting a burnt area north of
Tidbinbilla Tracking Station and
most recently reports a variety of
Robins, including **Flame, Scarlet
and a Red-capped Robin**. On the
severely burnt lower slopes of Mt
Tennent, David McDonald also
found **Flame and Scarlet Robin**, and
also **Varied Sittella, Collared
Sparrowhawk** and **Grey
Butcherbird**.

Harvey Perkins visited the recently
opened part of Tidbinbilla NR and

reported 8 species including **King
Parrot, Scarlet Robin** and **Grey
Shrike-thrush**, a big improvement
on the solitary Magpie recorded there
in February. By comparison,
Harvey's woodland surveys on Red
Hill, burnt the previous summer,
show that a wide range of species
have returned to the regenerating
bush including **Superb Fairy-wren,
Weebill**, both pardalote (Striated and
Spotted) species, **Speckled Warbler,
Gang-gang Cockatoo, Brown
Goshawk** and **Collared
Sparrowhawk**.

From unburnt areas; Murray Johnson
surveys several 2 ha sites around
Gundaroo and regularly reports
Brown Treecreeper. Brian Scales
from his regular sites at Ainslie
unfortunately reported hearing a
Spotted Turtle-dove. In recent
surveys of some of the wetlands
around Bungendore, Dianne Deans
found an array of waterbirds
including **Pink-eared Duck,
Australasian Shoveller**, large
numbers of **Australian Shelduck**,
and 7 **White-fronted Chat**. Ian
Anderson at his Burra Creek
property reported thousands of
migrating honeyeaters up until Easter
but very few after that. He continues
to see **Glossy Black-Cockatoos**, up
to 8 at a time, and this will be the
focus for a COG outing in August.

If you need more record sheets, or
have any queries about filling them
out, either come to the meetings or
contact Nicki Taws, 6251 0303,
ntaws@austarmetro.com.au.

MINIMIZING MYNAS: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED

In the December 2002 issue of Gang-
gang members were briefed on
progress in developing the second
stage of this study which is led by Dr
Chris Tidemann of the ANU, with

COG and Environment ACT also participating. Chris has obtained funding support; traps are being manufactured; and it is hoped that the project will commence in July. The central goal of this stage of the project is to ascertain the impacts on Common Myna density in defined locations of trapping and removing the birds. The trapping will probably be confined to suburbs with reasonably high myna densities.

As part of the task of designing the project we need to establish the extent and nature of COG's involvement. Accordingly, expressions of interest are invited from COG members and other birders to assist with the project. We will need someone to co-ordinate COG's involvement (under the overall project leadership provided by Chris Tidemann) and a number of volunteers to undertake monitoring of mynas (and perhaps some other species) in a systematic manner in the vicinity of the trapping and/or myna roosting sites. In a month or so COG members, as well as the general public, will be invited to register to have traps sited at their homes. The project will run over about one year, with monitoring being undertaken during short periods of perhaps two weeks a number of times throughout the year. It is expected that on-line data entry will be used by the birders undertaking the monitoring, but volunteers without internet access are still welcome to register their expressions of interest.

To let us know that you wish to be involved in the Minimizing Mynas Stage 2 project, or to obtain further information, please contact David Rosalky at email davros@webone.com.au, phone 0418 731 927, as soon as possible. Without volunteer birders it is unlikely that this important project will be able to proceed.

COG Minimizing Myna Project Team (Julie McGuiness, Ian Fraser, David Rosalky & David McDonald)

CALL FOR INFORMATION: A REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF OSPREY NESTING IN NSW

An Ekerlogic Consulting Services (ECS) and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Project funded by the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife.

The Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus cristatus*) is listed as a Vulnerable species under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. The distribution of the Osprey in NSW is coastal from the NSW/Queensland border to the south coast of NSW, with occasional sightings inland. The Osprey is extremely rare on the south coast and Sydney region, with very few historical and current records. There are occasional sightings around the Central Coast and the Newcastle – Port Stephens region. The Osprey is however, most abundant and widespread from the mid-north to far north coast regions. The distribution of breeding Ospreys from 1977-1988 occurred from Eraring on the Central Coast to the NSW/Queensland border, with a breeding population within this range of approximately 45-50 pairs.

The NSW NPWS (Northern Directorate) has commissioned ECS to undertake a review of the status of nesting Ospreys in NSW. The aim of the project is to prepare an up-to-date inventory of active Osprey nests in NSW, collating existing information from various sources and updating and adding to this information through field surveys. The information will be used by the NPWS to prepare a recovery plan for the species in NSW.

This project relies on the information from a wide range of key National

and State organisations, local Councils, birdwatching groups, individual bird watchers and interested members of the public. We are hoping that these groups can provide information on the location of current and previously active Osprey nests. This information will be an important first step in assessing the status of Osprey nesting in NSW. Field surveys, which will occur from June-November 2003 (during the breeding season) will both ground truth this information as well as add the data already available.

If anyone has any information on nesting Ospreys anywhere in NSW, could they please contact Peter Ekert directly on (02) 49500573 or 0140566104 or email peter@ekerlogic.com.au

Protection of Grassy (Yellow Box/Red Gum) Woodlands and Woodland Birds

On Sunday 4 May, the Conservation Council for the South-east Region and Canberra, with support from several member groups including COG, organised a community awareness raising event at the East O'Malley woodlands adjacent to Callemonda Rise in O'Malley. This event promoted the endangered Grassy (Yellow Box/Red Gum) woodlands and their ecological values generally, the issue of declining woodland birds, as well as highlight that much of the remaining endangered woodland in the ACT is under continuing threat by development pressures.

The sound of bulldozers will replace the Scarlet Robin and other birds living in the 27 hectares of endangered woodland at East O'Malley, now destined for a



Scarlet Robin (*Petroica multicolor*)

Photo courtesy of **Helen Fallow**

prestige housing development, large homes on big blocks and townhouse complexes – this was announced in the May ACT Budget. North and East Gungahlin also have endangered woodland next to Mulligan’s Flat NR where housing developments are planned; the Budget announced the suburbs of Forde and Bonner would be released in the next year; these are right next to the sensitive Mulligan’s Flat

Reserve and we are concerned about the effects of many thousands of people living right on the reserve’s borders with all their roaming domestic pets. I am writing this so members have a better understanding of the current woodlands issues.

The woodland at East O’Malley consists of large old Blakely’s Red Gum and Yellow Box trees, some old Apple Box trees, a mid storey of

trees and saplings of various ages, a large number of regenerating eucalypts and an understorey that is a mix of native and exotic grasses and forbs. In places, there are good quality, intact patches with native shrubs and mossy rocks. Some patches are modified and have weeds, including woody weeds, but the vegetative structure is diverse and this diversity provides good shelter and food richness for birds, in particular for several declining, woodland birds. The site is also relatively protected from wind due to its topography and aspect.

As well known COG identity and scientist Dick Schodde pointed out at the May COG meeting, and in a letter from a group of scientists published in the Canberra Times on 16 May “...of all endangered woodlands, Blakely’s Red Gum heads the list ... the pocket at East O’Malley, full of healthy regeneration, ... and still retains its pre-European elements”. Those of you who watched the ABC’s Stateline program about these woodlands on 16 May will have heard Dr Michael Mulvaney, of the Red Hill Regenerators (Landcare) Group, say that there are only 3 patches of this kind of woodland of more than 5 square kilometres left in Australia.

The woodland at East O’Malley is on the edge of, but is an integral part, of a wider Grassy (Yellow Box/Red Gum) woodland complex in the heart of Canberra, which includes Red Hill, Mt Mugga, Isaacs Ridge and the Callum Brae/Symonston area over the hill in the Jerrabomberra Valley, and this is one of the largest and most important woodland corridors in the ACT – that has been recognised in the Government’s draft ACT Lowland Woodland Conservation Strategy recently released. East O’Malley is one of the few places where you can walk in off the urban fringe and still see

some of the woodland birds which are declining in our region.

This woodland type once stretched unbroken from Canberra to Young and as a belt of between 50 - 150km up to the Queensland border and down to Benalla in Victoria. Yellow Box/Red Gum is a woodland of fertile soils low down in the landscape and more than 90% of its former extent has been cleared for agriculture or grazing, or in the case of the ACT much of it for housing. Grassy woodlands are listed as endangered ecological communities in the ACT and NSW. Due to an accident of history, the ACT has more of this community left intact than anywhere else (in NSW it's largely confined to small remnant patches, eg in TSRs, Cemeteries, roadsides), and therefore, there is a special responsibility for the ACT community to protect what is left.

Someone told me recently that years ago, they used to see Hooded Robins (already listed as a threatened species) in the woodlands around the Woden area near O'Malley – this species is long gone from the area as it is sensitive to human presence, as has the Diamond Firetail disappeared more recently. There is a suite of declining and rare woodland birds that do still utilise the East O'Malley woodland and the woodland complex around it. A significant species still there in small numbers is the Scarlet Robin which has declined by more than 50% regionally in the last few decades, and has been submitted by COG to the Government, through the ACT Flora and Fauna Committee, for listing as a vulnerable species. We anticipate that this species and some other nominated birds, are likely to be accepted once due process is finalised.

A small child on the walks at East O'Malley asked one of the guides "why are they building houses on top of the trees"? Someone asked me

"where will the Scarlet Robins and the other birds go"? Where will they go indeed! It is another example of death by a thousand cuts for our precious woodland habitat and woodland birds on the road to extinction. Scientists and researchers have predicted that a huge wave of extinctions of flora and fauna will occur in the next 50 years, and our woodland birds are high up on the list.

In June 2002, the Chief Minister postponed the sale and bulldozing of the 27ha of endangered woodland at East O'Malley until after the completion of a woodland conservation strategy for the ACT. This draft strategy was released only four days before the Budget, and it did not change the assessment of this area as endangered community. At the same time as excising the 27 hectares at East O'Malley, an announcement has been made to reserve some 300 hectares on the other side of this woodland complex, a leasehold known as Callum Brae. While we are pleased about Callum Brae, this protection was entirely expected as it's a high quality woodland site and home to a threatened bird, the Brown Treecreeper and several other declining birds. The East O'Malley woodland is worth a huge amount of money for the ACT Treasury's coffers and economics has, unfortunately taken precedence. When one considers that it is prestige housing which will be built here which only the most affluent in our community can afford, it is an even more distressing example of what many call 'environmental vandalism'.

In press releases associated with the May Budget and earlier in the Legislative Assembly on 12 March 2003, the ACT Government committed itself to long term protection of all areas of Grassy Yellow box/Red Gum woodland that

are of sound ecological condition and relatively intact and connected with other similar areas of habitat for threatened species – a vision which does not seem to be matched by good environmental decisions. It's own Draft Woodland Conservation Strategy, (which is a good plan for woodlands conservation) concludes amongst other things, that declining woodland birds are not adequately protected within the ACT's reserve system, and recommends that there are biodiversity gains to be made by avoiding greenfields developments where there are large areas of good quality woodland intact.

While Callum Brae and an area at Gooroo on the eastern side of Mulligan's Flat will also become reserve and, therefore, should be protected from future housing development, these areas have long been considered to be of such good quality and large Grassy woodland remnants with very good habitat for threatened and declining birds, they would eventually be recognised. Parts of Gooroo are hills ridges and buffers which are not developed anyway. Additionally, those areas are already in the system (as leaseholds with some grazing) and currently provide habitat for birds; the fact that they will at a future time, have a different land tenure or reserve label does not of itself significantly increase their value as bird habitat. Moreover it is arguable whether even this large addition to reserve will make any serious impact in terms of reversing the local declines in a number of woodland birds.

There is an opportunity if recommendations in the Draft Woodland Conservation Strategy are comprehensively implemented, to at least improve connectivity between woodland patches, undertake restoration in some areas, eg important woodland corridors like the Newline Quarry site, and to

target management actions for some threatened species like the Brown Treecreeper which relies on dead and fallen timber.

The Government has also made another environmentally questionable decision to put houses, including high density town houses, in endangered woodland (Yellow Box/Red Gum community) in the proposed suburbs of Forde and to a certain extent in Bonner, right next to the Mulligan's Flat Nature Reserve in Gungahlin. This is also a sensitive habitat, the largest and most important reserve of this ecological community in our region (possibly in Australia), and the impact of dense, human presence and their domestic animals, will impact on threatened and declining woodland birds still found there, as well as have other detrimental effects.

I and others involved in environmental lobbying, have input countless hours in consultation meetings with ACT government officials over the last year or so, especially in the development of the woodland strategy, but also about planning in North Gungahlin and around Mulligan's Flat NR. Additionally, COG and other groups have put in submissions on various issues including the Structure Plan for North Gungahlin suburbs, arguing for proper protections for Mulligan's Flat, such as buffers and appropriate domestic animal controls, to protect its biodiversity in the face of large numbers of people and their cats and dogs living close to the reserve. The only concession agreed so far, is that the reserve will have a road on the boundary, rather than have houses abutting the reserve; it is a start but not enough we think.

While East O'Malley has not been my regular patch for birding, a number of COG members have monitored and enjoyed the birds there for some time. COG also has a

couple of monitoring sites there as well as over the hill at Callum Brae and the Riding School opposite the Mugga lane tip, as part of the Woodland project. I've developed quite an attachment to the area since getting involved in this issue, and personally will assist any further efforts being made by others to stop the development.

I urge all of you who care about our woodland birds to write letters to ACT politicians, phone politicians, write letters to the Canberra Times, influence your friends and families to do the same, and continue to lobby through other forums you may be involved with. The birds cannot speak up for themselves; environmental groups like COG and the community are their only advocates. The fact is that there are other choices for housing in less environmentally sensitive areas.

COG and other groups are writing to the ACT Government about these issues. At the time of going to press, there was some talk about a Supporters Group for East O'Malley, following a lot of interest from the public after the Stateline program. My feeling is though, its going to take a miracle to stop the bulldozers in East O'Malley.

Jenny Bounds

Avian Whimsy #11

Budgeting for the Hard Times

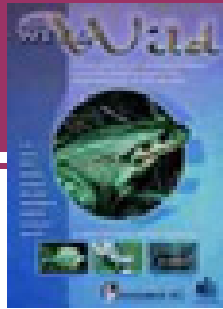
As you read this, I'll be returning home through western Queensland, having spent nearly a month introducing people to the *wonderful* Red Centre. Among the multitude of reasons to love that part of the world is budgies. In north-west

Queensland, after recent rains, I expect to have flocks of them flying alongside the bus for most of the time.

It seems sad to me that most people only know budgerigars as cage birds. One reason for the sadness is that budgies are essentially flock birds, so a lone budgie is a very sorry bird indeed. Another reason though is that they are quintessentially Australian, and I am always a little taken aback to find people who have never thought of them as being a wild bird, a parrot, or Australian! They are in fact Australia's smallest parrot, weighing only 27g – there are thus six of them to one rosella! I say quintessentially Australian, because they are true children of El Nino, superbly adapted to the unpredictable cycle of drought and bounty that rules the vast Australian inland that the budgie calls home.

They are great nomads, following the rains and the grass seeds that they live on. They can turn up in areas where they haven't been seen for years and be gone again a few months later. There were persistent reports –which I accept – of small flocks in Canberra during the recent drought. They have an extraordinary capacity to find water, and will fly long distances to it. Vincent Serventy reports digging out a soak at a spring in a WA desert; in 3 hours, large flocks of budgies were circling the area and soon 20,000 gathered in trees! But if there is no water, they can go without for 30 days. Drinking is very hazardous, as many birds of prey – especially falcons and goshawks – wait at the water-holes. I have watched as flocks dithered for an hour or more, nervously gathering in surrounding trees, swirling into the air like great green ribbons of birds. When they do finally pluck up the courage, they drink quickly and nervously, even lying on the water surface so as not to have to wait for a space on the bank.

COG SALES



- **NEW** – **Wet and Wild - A Field Guide to the Freshwater Animals of the Southern Tablelands and High Country" by M Lintermans and W Osborne, \$28.00 (RRP \$34.95).**
- **Wildlife on Farms - by David Lindenmayer - RRP \$29.95, SPECIAL PRICE for COG members - \$25.00.**
- **Where to Find Birds in NE Queensland - Joe Wieneke - \$16.00.**
- **Reptiles and Frogs of the ACT - Ross Bennett - \$13.00.**
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- **Birds of Rottnest Island – by Denis Saunders & Parry de Rebeira - \$15.00**
- **Birds of Rottnest Island – a check list - \$1.00**
- **Grassland Flora – a Field Guide for the Southern Tablelands (NSW and ACT) – by David Eddy et al. - \$13.00**
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- **The Nestbox Book – Gould League - \$9.00**
- **Birds of Queensland's Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef – by Lloyd Nielsen - \$25.00**
- **Guide to the Bird Habitats of NSW (and ACT) – NSW Atlassers - \$27.00**
- **Field Guide to the Birds of the ACT – by Taylor and Day - \$14.00**
- **Simpson and Days' Birds of Australia CDROM Version 5.0 SPECIAL PRICE - \$45.00**
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COG T-shirts, Polo shirts, all above and other books on local flora and fauna available at the monthly meeting sales desk or by contacting Carol Macleay (for post and packing costs) on 02 6286 2624.

But it is in their breeding behaviour that the extent of their adaptation is apparent. Populations boom after rain – just one storm during a drought can trigger a frenzy of activity, with every tree hollow in the area occupied. If conditions are right, a Budgie can begin breeding at 4 weeks old. Incubation begins immediately on laying, so nestling development may be staggered by nearly a fortnight. In addition, she can have two clutches of different eggs in the nest, both lots of chicks fed by regurgitation, with the younger birds given a more liquid diet. Numbers build up to enormous levels in good conditions, and they die by the millions in severe drought. One central Australian landholder in 1931 removed and burnt almost 5 tonnes of dead budgies from one dam during a heatwave. (After the last time I told this story, I shall resist any estimates of weight, wet or day...)

Wild budgies are grass green with a yellow face; mutations (which are the base of 'wrong-coloured' cage birds) will turn up occasionally, but are quickly picked out by predators. The wildlife entrepreneur John Gould brought some hand-reared nestlings back to England in 1840; 1000s more followed in the next decade, then captive breeding became so widespread that a budgie was cheaper in London than in the Sydney markets! One attraction was 'talking'; strangely, no parrots are known to mimic other birds in the wild.

Yellow budgies were sold in the Belgian markets in 1872, blue ones turned up 1910. Many other colour forms followed. Scarlet ones were imported from India to London just pre-WW2 and sold for very high prices – after they moulted their dyed feathers though, they reverted to white! Today, the budgie is the world's most popular cage bird (followed incidentally, by another

small Australian parrot, the Cockatiel or Quarrion).

So by all means feel sorry, as I do, for the budgies you pass in the pet shop window. But think too of the swirling green living ribbons of 'real' budgies flying alongside my bus; they and I will be feeling sorry for you...

ianf@pcug.org.au

Ian Fraser



Field Trip to Lowden Park

Photo courtesy **Marika Ainley**

IF BUGGER-ALL'S IN NAMES, WHY DO WE HAVE THEM?

Ian Fraser's comment in the February 2002 issue of *Gang-gang* about the quaintness, mysteriousness and downright stupidity of some English names for our birds could start me off about the absurdity of some scientific names, such as *Pygoscelis papua* for the Antarctic Gentoo Penguin and *Dacelo novaeguineae* for our kookaburra. But it also raises the next question: why should we put up with hanging on to them? And that point needs

clearing up lest we get too carried away.

Names first and foremost are handles for communication. And today, with birding a world-wide past-time, global systems of names are more necessary than ever. That has been obvious in scientific nomenclature for years. Now, however, it is just as essential for English names because so much of the world's bird literature is in English, particularly in the

burgeoning area of field guides. If we hadn't moved towards such a system in Australia, and kept to the old 1926 RAOU Checklist that held sway for over 50 years, we would still have 'lapwing' and 'plover' and 'dotterel' for both the same and different species in different countries, creating absolute confusion. And the issue is not limited to the plovers.

There is of course no accepted global list of English names, although the International Ornithological Committee has sanctioned one to be prepared. In its absence, nevertheless, most countries keep to a general code, two of the first principles being: (1) any one name can only be used for one species, and (2) the countries in which species and groups of species are centred and breed have first choice of the name. That is why Crested Hawk was changed to Pacific Baza, Spine-tailed Swift to White-throated Needletail, and Marsh Crake to the ugly Baillon's Crake. For birds centred in Australia, we can choose our own names, hopefully spiced with a bit of the vernacular, such as galah, Major

Mitchell, Willie Wagtail, Jacky Winter and rosella, from the Sydney area Rose Hill where the first Eastern Rosellas were seen.

The updating of English names in the Christidis-Boles list wisely returned some of the old names for Australian-centred species, such as 'Nankeen' for our kestrel and night-heron (I had voted against the change to Rufous by the previous committee but was out-voted). Still, some of the names introduced in the Christidis-Boles list are contrary to the code. One is the popular 'Wood Duck' because there is a duck already known as 'Wood Duck' in north America where it has some two centuries of precedence. Of course, our name is Australian Wood Duck – but you watch the unwary drop off the 'Australian'. Australian Spotted Crake is in the same boat – or, better, swamp.

For our own endemics, however, we should not be frightened to alter an unsuitable name, though cautious enough not to create a shambolic plethora of change. The RAOU committee on English names of the 1950s and 60s, under the helm of Alec Chisholm, had prepared their own list in which over half the names of Australian honeyeaters were changed, many for little, if any, improvement. River Honeyeater for White-gaped Honeyeater is an example. Fortunately that list never saw the light of day.

One name that could be considered for change, though, is Chestnut Quail-thrush. The bird is not chestnut, only chestnut backed. And calling it Chestnut-backed Quail-thrush would make a good, field-defining name to contrast with Chestnut-breasted Quail-thrush – at least in my view.

Richard Schodde



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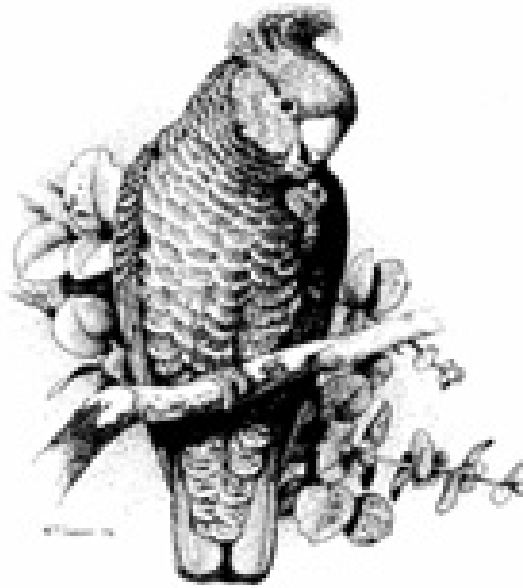
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Canberra Ornithologists Group Inc

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Please complete this form and post it with your payment to:

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Are you interested in any of the following COG activities? (please tick)

- | | |
|--|---|
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Birds

Expressions of interest: editor of *Gang-gang*

The current editors of *Gang-gang* are calling for expressions of interest to assist in the monthly production of our newsletter. If you would like more information about what is involved, or you are keen to be involved, please contact Tanya Rough by email at rough.boden@apex.net.au or phone 02 6274 2302 (w), 02 6161 0151 (h)

Mouths of birds are
very strange,
but eyes of birds
are stranger:
one eye looks for
things to eat,
and one eye looks
for danger.

Aileen Fisher, primary

COG info

President

Barry Baker, ph 6274 2402 (w),
mobile 0412 484 728

Vice President

Nicki Taws, ph 6251 1879

Treasurer

Joan Lipscombe ph 6262 7975

Secretary

Doug Laing ph 6287 7700 (h)

Membership inquiries

Contact **Alastair Smith** 6281 3221 (h)
or 0401 993 381 for changes of
address or other details

Address for correspondence

The Secretary
COG, PO Box 301
Civic Square, ACT 2608

Gang-gang editor

Tanya Rough 6161 0151 (h)

Newsletter distribution

Lia Battison and helpers

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 website

<http://www.canberrabirds.dynamite.com.au>

COG membership

2003-2004 membership:
Individuals, families and institutions:
\$35. school students (under 18):
\$17.50.

Next newsletter

JULY newsletter deadline
Friday 20 June 2003

Send updates to
Tanya Rough,
Editor *Gang-gang*
Email preferred:
rough.boden@apex.net.au or
Tanya.Rough@ea.gov.au
Ph: 6161 0151 (ah)

Articles should be less than 500 words (300 for reports of 1-day field trips; 150 for Atlassing Snapshots), except by prior arrangement with the editor. Print photographs with articles encouraged.

Office (6247 4996)

COG maintains an office in room G5, Griffin Centre, Bunda Street, civic.

Office volunteers are not in attendance for regular opening hours.

Members access by prior arrangement.

COG E-mail Discussion List

COG has an email announcement and discussion list for members and friends of COG: 'Canberra Birding', also known by the nickname 'cog-1'.

Join the list at
<http://www.topica.com/lists/canberrabirds> or by sending a blank email message to canberrabirds-subscribe@topica.com.



Gang-gang

If undeliverable, please return to
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