

## Gang-gang Cockatoo Project Update- October 2014

### Survey progress

With the help of Anne Carrick and Paul Fennell a backlog of around 1500 observations submitted between July and October has now been cleared. Not including the Muster observations a summary from June is as follows:

	No. records	No. observers	Group size	Ratio	Ratio
				adult male: female	adult: young
June	468	87	5	1: 0.91	1: 0.21
July	421	71	4.5	1: 0.88	1: 0.26
August	457	92	4.3	1:0.97	1:0.18
September	402	66	3	1:0.87	1: 0.14
October	181	38	3	1: 0.87	1: 0.11

Of these 2000 records over 90% were submitted through the COG/Atlas of Living Australia on-line data entry portal.

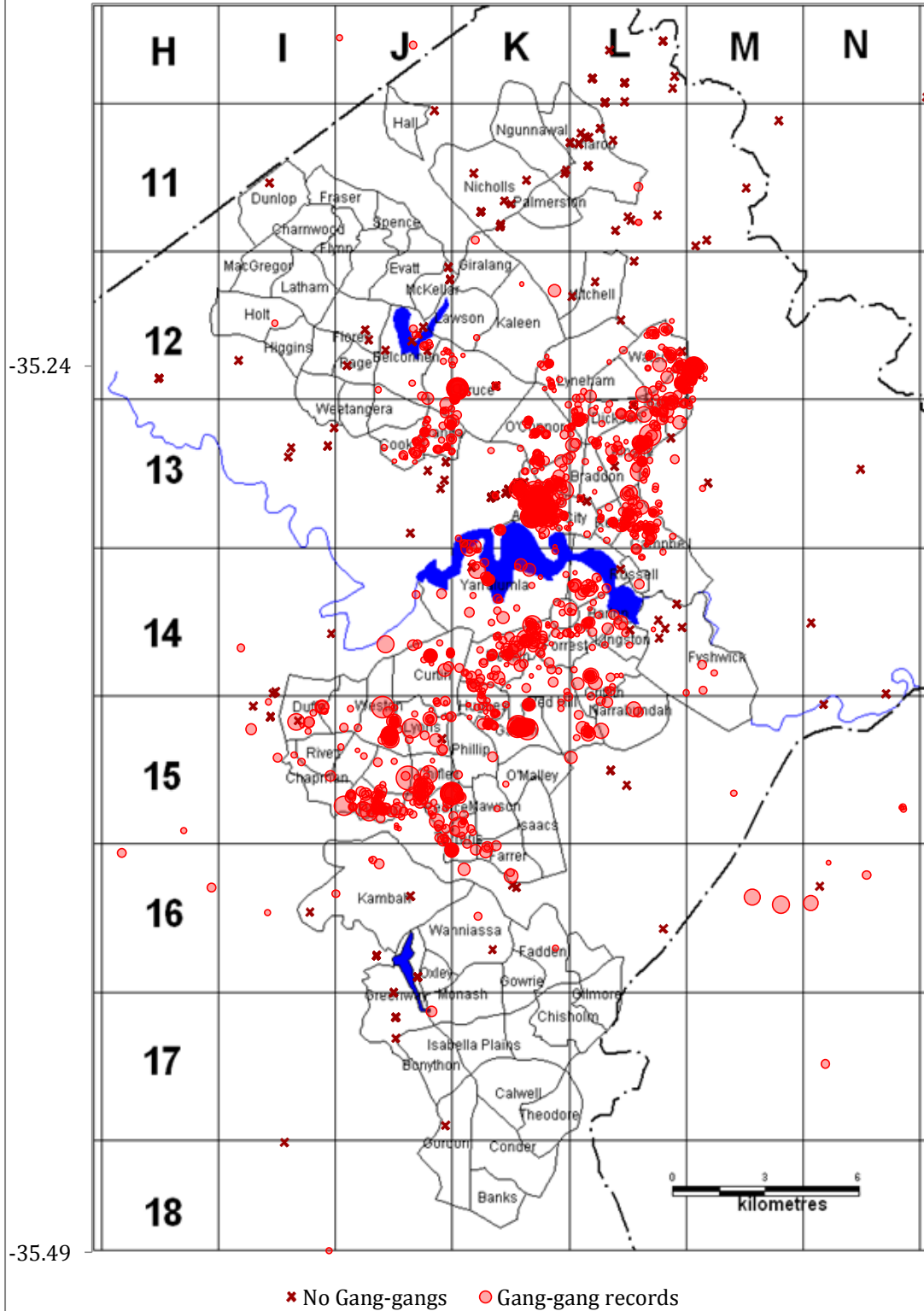
Despite now being well into Spring there does not appear to be any change in the urban distribution with the hot spots continuing to border various Canberra Nature Reserves:

Canberra Nature Reserve	Suburbs
Mt. Majura	Watson, Hackett
Mt. Ainslie	Ainslie, Campbell
Black Mt, Bruce Ridge, Gossan Hill	Acton, Aranda, Bruce, O'Connor
Mt. Taylor	Pearce, Fisher
Red Hill	Red Hill, Deakin, Garran

The map below shows all of the urban and peri-urban observations between March and September and clearly shows the majority of sightings in close proximity to various Canberra Nature Parks. Each dot represents an observation; the larger the dot 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 or similar point. Muster records are not included.

148.96

# **Gang-gang records - 7 months between Mar 2014 and Sep 2014**



Observations on hollow inspecting have been reported throughout the year but since September activity around potential nest hollows has become more intense with both male and female at the same hollow, accompanied by much head-bobbing and mutual preening with occasional copulations observed. Every effort is being made to follow up the September and October inspecting observations but to date there have been no reports of successful breeding. This is not surprising given that most pairs do not commence to nest until October-November, and fledging normally takes place in January-February. If you have reported hollow inspecting could you please return to the area and report any further activity.

The 21-27th August Muster observations are still being received. To date the number of observations is well down compared to the May Muster

	No. sites	No. suburbs inc. rural observations
May	146	56
August	61	38

The reasons for this decline are unknown although at this stage it appears unlikely to be the result of birds moving away from the urban area to the Ranges to breed. If this were the case there would be a proportional increase in the number of returns with nil observations and this does not appear to be the case. In addition, although the rural observations are sparse, there is no indication of an increase in sightings from the Ranges.

Observations from the next couple of months are critical for us to understand whether Gang-gangs are breeding within the urban area or whether they leave the area to breed elsewhere. So, please continue submitting your observations. Forms are available on the COG website, or at the Members Night on 12<sup>th</sup> November. Observations can be entered on-line at <http://root.ala.org.au/bdrs-core/cog/home.htm>

### **November Muster Count - 20-26 November.**

A reminder that the November Muster Count is coming up (20- 26 November) and we want as many people as possible in the COG region involved in our spring count. This Muster will help us track the expected movement of birds back to the mountains for breeding or perhaps reveal we have a population of resident birds.

The paper data form for Muster week can be downloaded from the website and forms will also be available at the November COG meeting. As for the previous Muster counts, records can also be entered using the electronic form at the end of the Muster week. Instructions for the Muster count and both forms can be found on the Muster page. <http://canberrabirds.org.au/observing-birds/gang-gang-survey/gang-gang-muster-instructions/>

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 [ggquery@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:ggquery@canberrabirds.org.au)

### **Community Engagement**

We were invited by the CSIRO to join the 'Inspiring Australia' showcase in the CBR marquee at Floriade on 30 September. Kathy Eyles presented on the Gang-gang survey, chatted to visitors and distributed information about the Gang-gang survey and *imagining Gang-gangs* student art competition.



Our *imagining Gang-gangs* competition was also promoted by Ian Warden at the start of the school holidays in his Gang-gang column in the Canberra Times and competition flyers were left at busy school holiday venues like the CSIRO Discovery Centre and Botanic Gardens.

Student entries to *imagining Gang-gangs* close on 7 November 2014 and our exhibition of student art will be held at the M16 Artspace at Griffith from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November. The official opening will be at 4pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> so please come along and support this COG event and vote on your favourite junior and senior student Gang-gang artwork. The most popular choice in the junior and senior category will win a \$250 mysaver bank account with bank mecu.

We were also invited to attend the Scouts ACT EnviroACTion Forum at the Hackett Community Centre on 10 October 2014, to promote the Gang-gang survey and COG. The Forum was targeted to young people (16-24 years) and while a disappointing turn out, some good networking with allied community groups.

Beautiful photos of Gang-gangs appear in the ggquery mail box from time to time including this gem of an immature male by professional local photographer, Lib from LibCeative, who has also given us permission to use on the COG website.



Our engagement with Campbell High has proved fruitful with the birdwatching enrichment program attracting an eager group of students this term. Science teacher, Eva-Marie Bugledich, had an article published in the *Australian Teacher* about the enrichment program which incorporates COG's Gang-gang survey.

<http://www.educationhq.com.au/news/11344/the-search-for-the-elusive-gang-gang-cockatoo-proves-enriching-for-pupils/>

The GG survey project team