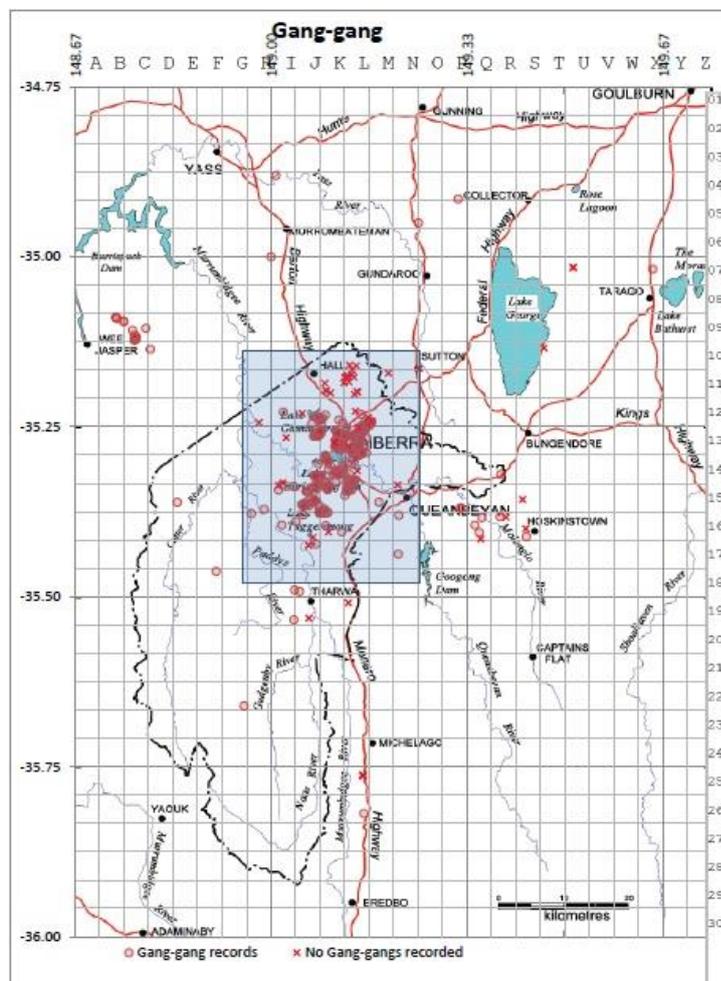


## Gang-gang Cockatoo Project Update- May 2014

### Sightings

Many thanks to all contributors for another great month of records and to Anne Carrick for data entry. At this stage (25<sup>th</sup> May) the number of observations are 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.

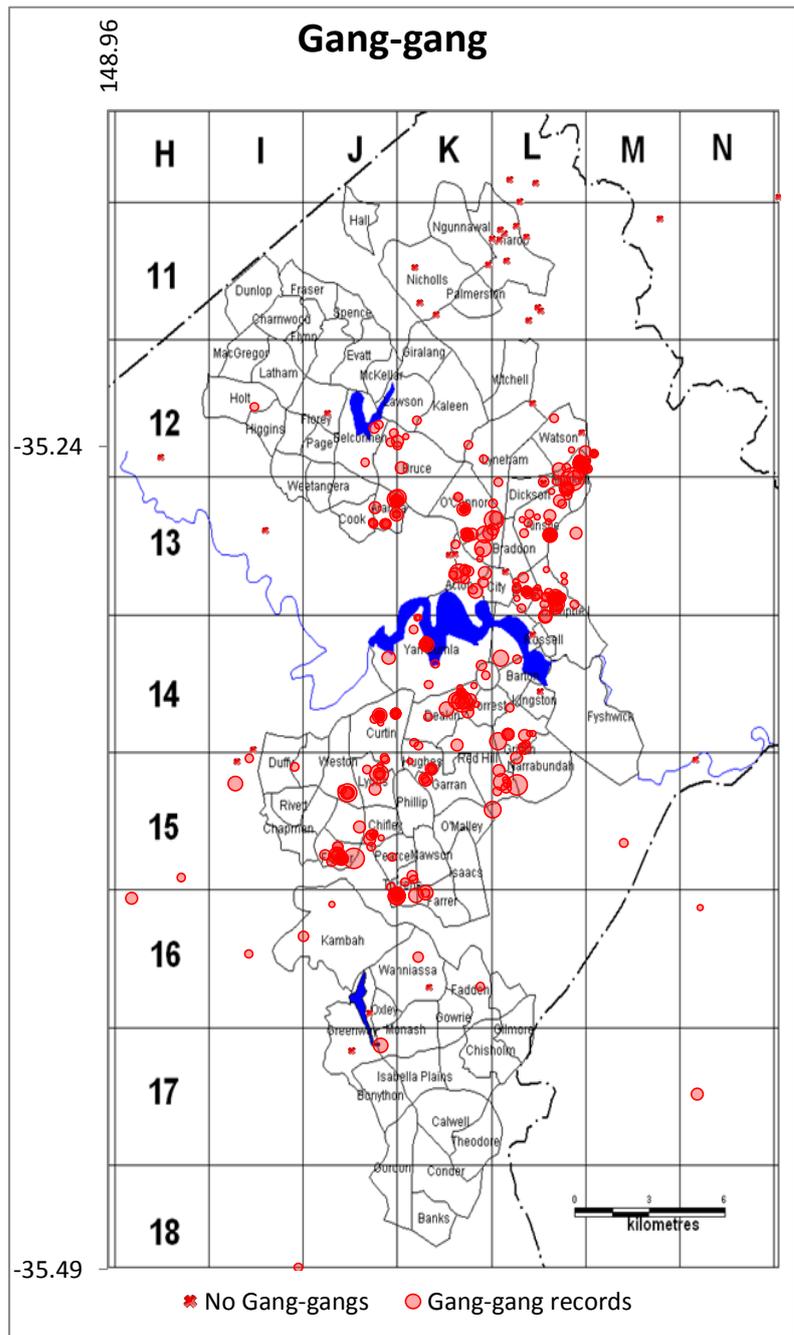


For May the most frequent feeding reports are of birds at feed tables or in Liquidambar or Hawthorn. As winter approaches it will be most interesting to see if there is a change in the distribution and feeding pattern. The largest number reported on-line at any one time was 20 birds at Lyons with the 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.

At the time of writing we are in the middle of the 21-27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gquery@canberrabirds.org.au)

***The GG survey project team***