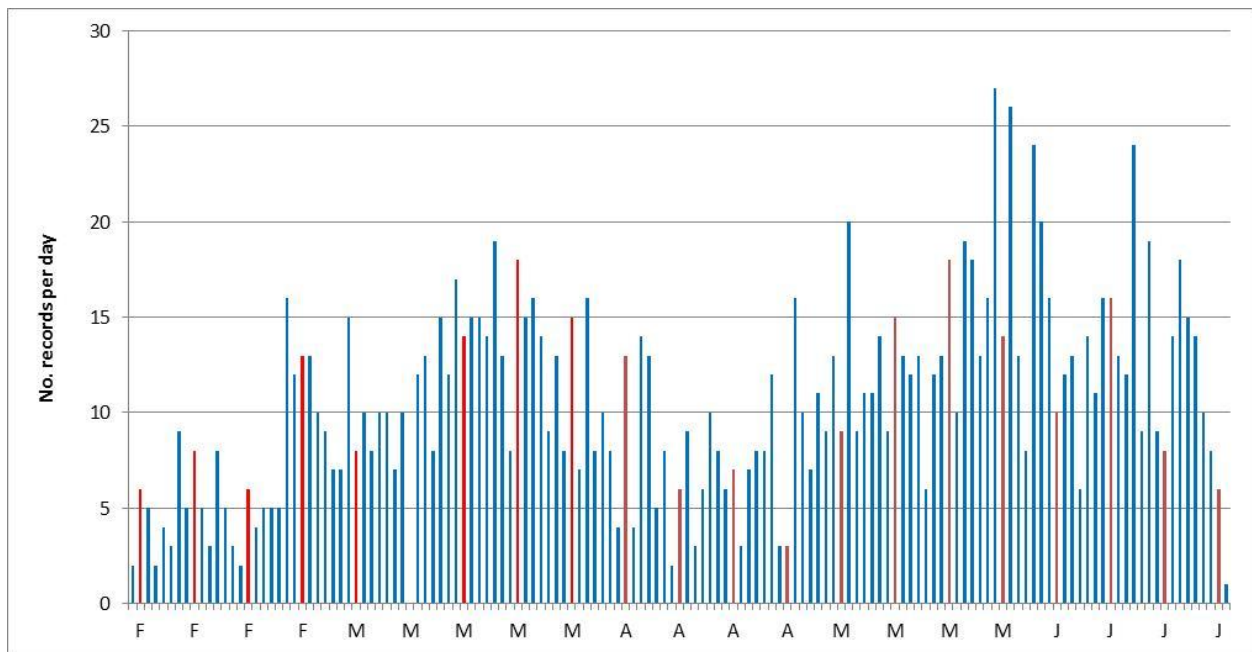


## Gang-gang Cockatoo Project Update- June 2014

Many thanks to all contributors for another great month of records. Thanks also to Anne Carrick for data entry of general observations and to Michael Robbins for the entry of the Muster observations. At this stage (23<sup>rd</sup> June) the number of on-line observations is similar to that for April (263-April, 278-June). The month of May ended up with the largest monthly input with 492 records, no doubt due to the interest caused by the Muster at the end of May. There are now 336 registered on-line users who have recorded 1628 observations. The number of daily on-line records is shown below. With no COG meeting at the usual venue in June the Red Box was unavailable and many paper forms are still to be included in the overall count.

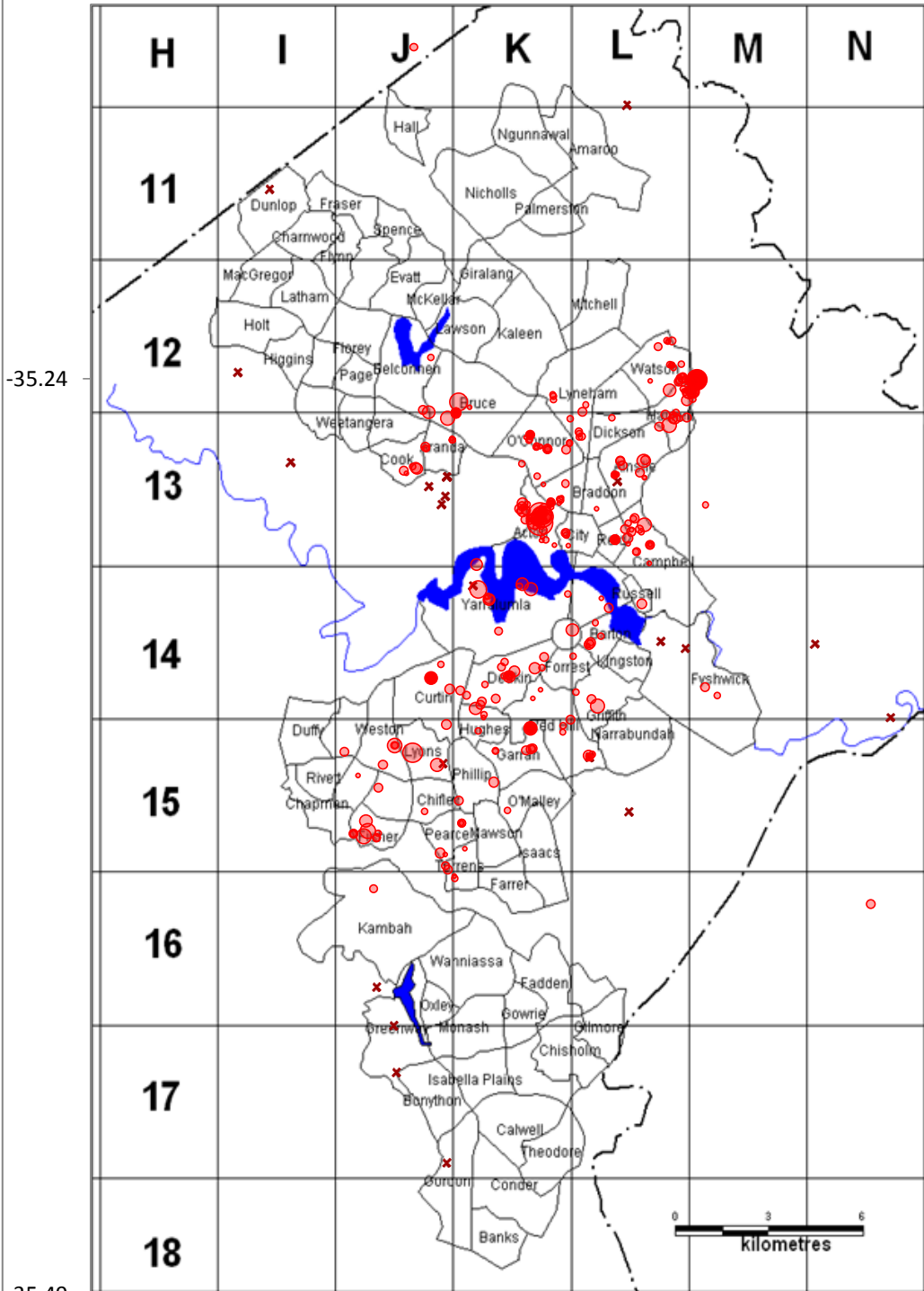


The number of daily on-line records between February and June 2014. The red bar indicates Sundays. (Note: this will only be visible on the web version of the newsletter).

Again, with thanks to Steve Wallace for plotting the observations and to Nicki Taws for providing the base maps the distribution of urban records for May is shown below. 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. Muster records are not included.

# Gang-gang records - May 2014

148.96



-35.49

× No Gang-gangs    ○ Gang-gang records

A feature for May was the Muster which ran from 21-27th May. To date, 69 site observations on paper forms and 55 on-line site observations have been received. Observations were received from 52 suburbs with 68% of sites recording no Gang-gangs over the seven-day period. The Muster survey confirms the overall picture obtained from the general survey with areas such as Acton, O'Connor, Ainslie, Garran, Pearce and Deakin reporting birds virtually every day. The largest number of birds reported on any one day was 34 in Deakin, 29 in Pearce, 18 in Campbell and Ainslie and 16 in Hackett. Within suburbs there was some variation. For instance, in Acton there were eight sites of which three did not record any Gang-gangs, Ainslie nine sites of which four did not record any, O'Connor six sites of which four did not record any possibly indicating restricted distribution with particular suburbs at that time of the year.

The allure of the Gang-gang has spread beyond our region. Tim the Yowie Man's blog in the Sydney Morning Herald encouraged a birding reader to take the trip from Sydney to Canberra over the June long weekend to spot some Gang-gangs. We helped out by directing this keen birder to a hastily devised Gang-gang trail along Dickson Road ANU and up to the ANBG. Our Sydney birder sighted 40 birds in this gang-gang 'hotspot' and the records have been entered into our survey database.

As we move into the breeding season, we are working to engage people who spend a lot of time outdoors, including our urban Park Care and Landcare volunteers working in urban nature reserves, PCS rangers and rural landholders in the COG area of interest. Observers of breeding behaviour and/or nesting activity are asked to send in these sightings via [ggquery@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:ggquery@canberrabirds.org.au)

Presentations have been made at the June meeting of the ACT Park Care and Landcare Coordinators and to the Kosciuszko to Coast (K2C) Partners forum and K2C Landholders Connectivity Workshop: Landscaping for birds, both held in Queanbeyan on 20 June 2014. The landholders had lots of questions and anecdotes about the Gang-gang and interest in its habitat requirements and we secured a few more recruits for our August Gang-gang Muster.

We will be looking to ramp up media interest again ahead of the August Muster where we want as many people as possible involved in our winter count. This Muster will be of particular interest given the expected movement of birds from the mountains to the plains. A revised hard copy data form has been developed to provide room for observers to record information about feeding and bird interactions.

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)

The GG survey project team