

## **Gang-gang survey project update – February 2015**

As the Gang-gang survey draws to a close at the end of this month, at the time of writing (mid-February) observers have logged over 4,500 sightings of birds over the 12 months of the survey. Observations from five quarterly Muster counts have provided over 2,000 additional observations. As mentioned in the February newsletter the ALA data entry portal will remain open until mid-April for those wishing to submit forgotten observations.

During February we have received many reports about Gang-gangs returning to the suburbs in larger groups with juvenile birds present. The final Muster count is now underway and will provide a better picture of these movements and hopefully widespread evidence of breeding success. Gang-gangs have been reported feeding in Chinese pistachio (see photo below by Tegan Liston) and other exotic (seed) trees and even feasting on magnolia flowers in Chifley.

Gang-gang enthusiasts have been capturing this late summer action on camera with great shots by Geoffrey Dabb of a parent bird feeding a begging juvenile posted on the chatline and Julian Robinson's shot of Gang-gang male antics at the Botanic Gardens that featured in Ian Warden's Gang-gang column. We received good media coverage ahead of the final Muster count with thanks to Ian Warden at the Canberra Times and the team at the Canberra Weekly.



Photo: Female Gang-gang feeding in Chinese Pistachio tree (Tegan Liston)

Data from the survey will be compiled and analysed by the project team ahead of publication in Canberra Bird Notes and a presentation at the Friends of Botanic Gardens Lunchtime talk on 6 August 2015 and other community forums.

The Gang-Gang project team