

Gang-gang survey Progress Report - August 2014

Survey progress

Community participation in the Gang-gang survey continues to grow. As of 27 August, there are 400 registered users and 2,452 records in the ALA Gang-gang survey database. Together with paper records, we have over 2,500 sightings.

At the time of writing this report, we are in the midst of the August Muster Survey count so no data is yet available from the Muster week.

No sightings of breeding activity have been sent through to the survey query line. We are keen for observers to report any obvious breeding behaviour as we head into spring and particularly adult birds inspecting and working on hollows. Observers of breeding behavior and/or nesting are asked to send in these sightings via ggquery@canberrabirds.org.au

A sighting at Mt Taylor Nature Reserve on 24 August recorded parent birds feeding a clutch of juveniles Any dependent behaviours (feeding cry, begging and feeding) should be noted in your observation records.

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

Community engagement

Just ahead of the August Muster, we launched the 'Imagining Gang-gangs' Student Art Competition and Exhibition at North Ainslie Primary School. North Ainslie has the Gang-gang as its school emblem and was a fitting venue for the launch. COG member and North Ainslie teacher, Megan Mears, facilitated the event at the school. One of the student leaders, Edward York chaired the launch and another leader, Nyssa Murphy read the Gang-gang poem composed for us by John Leonard (reproduced below). Parks and Conservation Service ranger and COG member, Michael Maconachie talked cockatoos and Gang-gangs with the students who displayed very good knowledge about our bird of the year.

Ranger Michael Maconachie and students from North Ainslie Primary School in front of their colourful artworks in the school foyer.

Louise Maher from ABC 666 produced a wonderful story about the launch, part of which was relayed live to Alex Sloan's afternoon program. The sound of the primary students mimicking the Gang-gang call was a priceless piece of journalism.

Make sure your families and local schools are aware of the Gang-gang student art competition. There is an A4 poster and flyer on the webpage that members can place on community noticeboards.

Campbell High School students are busy creating their Gang-gang artworks. Students from Ms Louise Pinder's ceramics classes are working towards producing artworks based on Canberra's territory emblem the Gang-gang and their habitat, as the birds reside in close proximity of the school. This photo shows Year 8 Student from Campbell High Sonya McNee-Darrach sculpting her gang series out of clay to be fired and decorated for exhibition.



(Photo: Louise Pinder)

A big thanks to Ian Warden for keeping the momentum going in his Gang-gang column in the Canberra Times and the Canberra Weekly team for promoting the Muster counts.

The GG survey project team

Gang-gang Friends

A poem by John Leonard

I can hear my grey friends calling
From the gum trees in the morning.

I see them flapping slowly from tree
To tree, swooping up to a branch.

The male: bright red head,
Curling wispy crest, grey body;

The female: grey curly crest,
Grey body barred with orange-yellow.

You can see them chew gum nuts,
Holding them in the left foot,

Or inspecting leaves for larvae
With intent black eye,

Always cautious, often hidden,
But curious, unafraid, watching.

Hear them growl and creak,
See them fly away suddenly!

Canberra's special bird, special sound,
My grey Gang-gang friends.