



HELP CANBERRA BIRDOS TRACK THE GANG-GANG COCKATOO

Canberra Naturalist, Ian Fraser, today launched the Gang-Gang Muster – an exciting citizen science project to track the Gang-gang cockatoo across the Canberra region.

“The Gang-Gang is a much-loved and engaging bird whose ‘squeaky gate’ call can be regularly heard across Canberra. The Muster is a great opportunity for schools, community groups and local people to log sightings of the Gang-gang cockatoo in our urban gardens, streetscapes and nature reserves.” Mr Fraser said.

The survey, created by the Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG), is part of a number of activities to celebrate COG’s 50 years of birding in the ACT. The Gang-gang was chosen as the ‘Bird of the Year’ for 2014, reflecting its significance for the ACT and identity as COG’s emblem.

COG President, Alison Russell French explains, “This is a really exciting project that we launched. The Gang-gang is the ACT’s official native bird and wildlife emblem as well as the emblem of COG and the ACT Parks and Conservation Service”. Surprisingly, not a lot is known about our special bird.

“This survey will help us learn more about the local population, its breeding and the habitat it uses as well as its behavior. We want to encourage the community to record sightings of Gang-gangs all year round or during our 4 special Muster weeks. It is also a pilot for future ‘Bird of the Year’ projects to enlist community help to survey local birds” Ms Russell-French said.

The Gang-gang survey will run until 2015 with Muster weeks in May, August, and November 2014 and February 2015.

To find out more about the survey visit www.canberrabirds.org.au

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