



## Have our Gang-gangs headed to the hills?

Canberra residents are urged to get on board for the November Gang-gang Muster count, as part of Canberra Ornithologists Group's (COG) year long citizen science Gang-gang cockatoo survey.

With almost 2000 public sightings since June, we are getting a pretty good picture of the distribution of Gang-gangs in Canberra” said Chris Davey, Project manager of the survey. “While group sizes are getting smaller moving into spring, the birds are most often recorded in suburbs adjoining forested habitats on Mt Majura, Mt Ainslie, Red Hill, Black Mountain and Mt Taylor”.

The Gang-gang survey also includes four week-long ‘Muster’ counts, to record the presence and/or absence of Gang-gangs with the next count coming up from 20-26 November.

“The November Muster count is important to help us map whether the birds have headed up to the mountains to breed” Mr Davey said. “We have assumed Gangs-gangs return to the cool mountain habitats over spring and summer but it is possible some birds are staying and breeding in our urban woodland reserves”.

“The November count should shed some light on movement of the birds and changes to group sizes as we expect last years crop of juvenile birds will become more independent of their parents” Mr Davey said.

Mr Davey said the Gang-gang Muster is a simple bird-watching activity that anyone can take part in. “Choose somewhere you spend a little time most days of the week, like your home garden or the local park, and record the maximum number you see or hear each day. Even if you don’t see any birds, these reports are really important for the survey. To measure any changes in distribution it is particularly important that those who contributed to previous Musters do so again from the same site for the November Muster”.

A simple on-line electronic form can be used to enter records at the end of the week or you can download a paper form. Forms on the Canberra Birds website: <http://canberrabirds.org.au/observing-birds/gang-gangsurvey/gang-gang-muster-instructions>

Gang-gang fans should also head down to the M16 Artspace Gallery, Griffith for the *Imagining Gang-gangs* exhibition of student artworks. The exhibition opens at 4pm on Wednesday 26 November and runs through to Sunday 30 November. Visitors will be invited to vote for their favourite artwork by a primary and a senior year student. The most popular two works will win \$250 from bank mecu so get along check out the creative talents of the students.

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