



## Gang-gangs enjoy Canberra in Autumn

Local people are helping to build a regional picture about the habitat and feeding behavior of the Gang-gang cockatoo, as part of the Canberra Ornithologists Group's (COG) Gang-gang survey.

“Over 300 people have entered 1800 sightings in the Atlas of Living Australia survey web portal,” said Chris Davey, Project Manager for the survey. “When combined with paper records, we have over 2000 public sightings of Gang-gangs to the end of June.”

“These sightings show the birds are using habitat in and around our nature reserves in Canberra’s inner north and south, and around Woden and Weston Creek” Mr Davey said. “We are also getting a good idea about what the birds are feeding on, mainly small seeds and fruits from Eucalyptus sp., Chinese Pistachio, Elm and Hawthorn trees.”

The Gang-gang survey also includes four week-long ‘Muster’ counts, to record the presence and/or absence of Gang-gangs. Mr Davey said the May Autumn ‘Muster’ produced records from 52 suburbs. “The top suburbs for Gang-gangs were Acton, O’Connor, Ainslie, Garran, Pearce and Deakin but importantly, 68% of sites recorded no Gang-gangs during the week, which will allow us to more accurately map the distribution of the bird.”

With the breeding season coming up, Mr Davey urged people to log daily sightings and participate in the next ‘Muster’ count week from 21 to 27 August. “We are hoping to track movement of the birds in late winter to see whether the birds head up to the mountains for breeding or whether this is changing and there is breeding activity in urban areas. “

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 whether you see or hear any Gang-gangs, or not. Even if you don’t see any birds, these reports are really important for the survey”

A simple on-line electronic form can be used to enter records at the end of the week or people can download a paper form. Both forms can be found on the Canberra Birds website:

<http://canberrabirds.org.au/observing-birds/gang-gangsurvey/gang-gang-muster-instructions>

Contact: Kathy Eyles 0407 899 698