

## **CanberraBirds, the email-based announcement and discussion list of the Canberra Ornithologists Group**

The Canberra Ornithologists Group email-based announcement and discussion list, CanberraBirds, has been operating successfully since 1999. It has around 350 subscribers and distributes about 10 emails per day, on average.

Both COG members and non-members are welcome to subscribe and participate in the list's discussions. If you find the list of interest and value, and are not a member of COG, please consider joining the association. Details of how to do so are online at <http://canberrabirds.org.au/AboutCOG.htm>.

### *List rules*

The list has a few simple rules that guide its operation. These stress the overarching importance of subscribers treating other list participants with respect and avoiding inappropriate language and behaviour, so that participation remains enjoyable for everyone. It is important that new subscribers, and people new to birding, feel welcome.

Messages sent to the CanberraBirds email list SHOULD NOT:

- Be of a purely commercial nature.
- Contain defamatory, offensive, hurtful or inappropriate language.
- Contain personal attacks—discuss the message, do not attack the messenger.
- Contain any photographs of identifiable individuals unless they have given their explicit permission for their images to be sent to the list.
- Include one-to-one private email conversations, unless all authors of those conversations have given their explicit permission for their emails to be distributed via the list.
- Exceed 2 MB (2,000 kB) in size. This is a courtesy to people accessing the list via mobile devices using plans that have limited and often expensive downloads.
- Stray too far from our main topics: the wild birds of the Canberra/ACT region, their habitat & conservation.
- Contain abbreviations the meaning of which would not be known to most list subscribers. If abbreviations must be used, please ensure that the word or phrase is spelled out in full when it first appears. This will be of immense assistance to people searching for content in the archive.

Subscribers who fail to comply with these rules will be suspended from the list for a period, or permanently, as determined by COG's Executive. Potentially defamatory posts may be deleted from the mailing list archive.

The COG Committee reminds subscribers that COG as the list owner, and the authors of any defamatory messages distributed by the list, could both be found liable in any legal action for defamation.

All emails distributed via the list are archived at

<http://bioacoustics.cse.unsw.edu.au/archives/html/canberrabirds>. The archive contains a search facility. It is a condition of list membership that you agree that emails that you send to the list address for distribution are publicly available in the archive. Please note that email addresses in the archive contents are masked so that they cannot be harvested by spammers and others.

### *Capturing bird observation records*

Reports of bird sightings sent to the CanberraBirds list are not captured in any birding records databases. If you have a record that should be deposited in the COG database, and thereby included in the COG Annual Bird Report and the Atlas of Living Australia, please fill in one of the record forms found at the COG website

[http://canberrabirds.org.au/MapsFormsLists/MapsFormsLists\\_Forms.htm](http://canberrabirds.org.au/MapsFormsLists/MapsFormsLists_Forms.htm), or submit it via eBird Australia <http://ebird.org/content/australia/> or Birdlife Australia's Birddata <http://birddata.com.au>.

### *Subscribing and unsubscribing are easy:*

- To subscribe, send an empty email to [canberrabirds-subscribe@lists.canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:canberrabirds-subscribe@lists.canberrabirds.org.au) with the word 'Subscribe' in the subject line.
- To unsubscribe, send an empty email to [canberrabirds-unsubscribe@lists.canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:canberrabirds-unsubscribe@lists.canberrabirds.org.au) with the word 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line.
- Once subscribed, to send an email to the list, address it to [canberrabirds@lists.canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:canberrabirds@lists.canberrabirds.org.au).

Other information can be found by emailing [canberrabirds-help@lists.canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:canberrabirds-help@lists.canberrabirds.org.au) with the word 'Help' in the subject line.

For any assistance, please contact David McDonald, who manages the CanberraBirds list on behalf of the COG Committee of Management, email [canberrabirds-owner@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:canberrabirds-owner@canberrabirds.org.au), or phone David at (02) 6238 3706 or 0416 231 890.