

# Have you seen this bird?



BirdLife Australia is asking people across the Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions to report any sightings of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo between now and the end of December 2013. The easiest way to do this is via the BirdLife Australia website.

## **Desperately seeking cockies**

Have you seen any black-cockatoos with white tails lately? Maybe you used to see them but they have disappeared recently. If so, BirdLife Australia wants to hear from you.

BirdLife Australia is asking people across the Wheatbelt and Great Southern Regions to be on the lookout for the large, white-tailed black-cockatoos known as Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos between now and Christmas, and report any sightings.

The population of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos has been shrinking since the 1950s, and BirdLife Australia is keen to hear from anybody who sees the birds so that we can determine how many there are and exactly where they still occur.

Farmers, townies, schoolkids, Landcare and community groups can all take part and play a vital role in helping us to save this iconic species. It's important that local communities get behind the survey — it will make a significant difference to the birds' survival.

Their survival depends on overcoming various different factors — the loss of nesting and feeding habitat, competition for nesting hollows, illegal shooting and poisoning, being hit by cars and trucks, climate change... the list goes on and on, but across the Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions, the loss of feeding habitat near their nesting sites is the greatest risk, at least in the short term.

If you'd like to get involved, or would like more information, contact BirdLife Australia's Matt Fossey on (08) 9287 2204. It is important that any sightings be reported as soon as possible. The easiest way to do this is via the BirdLife Australia website (<http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/carnabys-black-cockatoo-recovery/breeding-range-survey>); it takes only a few moments to complete.



# Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Breeding Range Survey

## September–December 2013

Western Australia is the only place in the world where you can see a Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo. They were once numerous across the Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions, but the species' population has declined since the 1950s, and some local populations have become extinct. They have probably declined in your local area.

**BirdLife Australia is asking people across the Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions to report any sightings of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos\* between now and the end of December.**

This will help us understand how the species' range has changed, and importantly, identify key breeding and feeding sites where we can direct our on-ground recovery efforts. We'd also like to hear if they used to be present in your local area, but no longer occur there.

**Please take a few moments to fill out the survey form overleaf or go to BirdLife Australia's website:** <http://birdlife.org.au/projects/carnabys-black-cockatoo-recovery/breeding-range-survey>

Any information you provide will make a significant contribution towards the species' survival and will be confidential.

How to fill out the survey form:

- Fill out a separate form for each location where you see Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, e.g. on your farm, someone else's farm, national park or shire reserve, a road verge, town site, private property in town.
- Even if you only have a little information (e.g. you have only seen them flying over), please report your sighting—this is still valuable information.
- For observers who can make ongoing observations throughout the breeding season, a separate form can be downloaded from BirdLife Australia's website: <http://birdlife.org.au/projects/carnabys-black-cockatoo-recovery/breeding-range-survey>
- Please send completed survey forms to: Matt Fossey, BirdLife Australia, 167 Perry Lakes Drive, Floreat, WA 6014 or email: [carnabys@birdlife.org.au](mailto:carnabys@birdlife.org.au)

\*Please be aware that a similar species, Baudin's Black-Cockatoo, also occurs in the South West — they can be easily confused, but they usually occur in different areas during the breeding season. If you are not sure whether you have seen a Carnaby's or a Baudin's, please complete a survey form and send it in to us.

\*If possible, please note whether the flocks contained a high proportion of males (identified by black bill, pink eye-ring and a small, dull cheek patch).

For more information about the 2013 Carnaby's Breeding Range survey, contact Matt Fossey from BirdLife Australia on (08) 9287 2204 or [carnabys@birdlife.org.au](mailto:carnabys@birdlife.org.au)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of sighting: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Time of sighting: (e.g. 11:00 AM) \_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_ AM/PM

Latitude or Easting: \_\_\_\_\_

Longitude or Northing: \_\_\_\_\_

Place name of sighting:

(Please give property location number, farm name, road name, reserve name, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Distance & direction from nearest town: (e.g. 20 kms east of Katanning)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos: (Please enter number of cockatoos seen)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Behaviour: (What were the cockatoos doing?)

- Flying over    Feeding    Perched on tree or fence    Looking into/chewing/entering tree hollow  
 Drinking    Roosting overnight    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Habitat: (If cockatoos were feeding or perched, where were they?)

- Shrubland    Paddock    Woodland/forest    Roadside vegetation    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Habitat: (If cockatoos were in or near hollows, what kind of tree were they in?)

- Wandoo (White Gum)    Marri (Red Gum)    Salmon Gum    Don't know    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How certain are you that you recorded a Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo?

- 100% certain    Probable    Possible

If you saw a flock of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos, were they mostly male birds?

(You could only tell this if you observed the cockatoos closely. Males differ from females in having a black bill, a pink eye-ring and a comparatively smaller and duller check patch)

- Yes    No    Don't know

If you used to see Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo but they have disappeared from your farm or Shire, please provide us with the details: (e.g. When did you see the cockatoos?; How many were there?; When did they disappear?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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