

GANG-GANG COCKATOO

HABITAT

The Gang-gang Cockatoo lives in eucalypt woodland forests, moving to higher mountain forests in summer and lower woodland forests in winter to avoid the colder temperatures.^[1] They are native to Southeast Australia across the southern coast of New South Wales and throughout Victoria.^[2]

DIET

They eat in tree canopies, feeding on insect larvae, seeds, nuts, and berries.^[3] They are usually found in small groups but form larger groups when searching for food.^[4]

REPRODUCTION

They breed between October and January, with only one individual for life. They nest between 2 to 3 eggs in hollow eucalyptus tree trunks, usually near the water. Both parents care for the young for up to 6 weeks until they have developed feathers to be able to fly.^[5]

THREATS

As forests are cleared, both by human interference and by bushfires, they not only have fewer places to live but also have a reduced food supply. They compete with others in their species for the limited food available. As they only live in cool, temperate areas, climate change could be deadly for the species as global temperature averages rise.^[6]

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to take or interfere with them in New South Wales^[7] and Victoria without a permit.^[8]



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DESCRIPTION

They are 32 to 37cm tall and weigh around 250g.^[9] They have dark grey bodies with dull white edges on their feathers and short square tails. The males have easily recognisable bright red feathers on their heads, while the females have dark grey.^[10]

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Callocephalon fimbriatum^[11]

CONSERVATION STATUS

Vulnerable^[12]

CLASS

Birds^[13]

LIFESPAN

Up to 17 years^[14]

POPULATION SIZE

Between 17,600 and 35,200^[15]

FUN FACT

The males have a distinctive call that sounds like a “rusty hinge” or “creaky door”.^[16]

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- ^[1] Australian Museum, 'Gang-gang Cockatoo', *Australian Museum* (7 Oct. 2021), Habitat, <https://australian.museum/learn/animals/birds/gang-gang-cockatoo/>, accessed 20 May 2023.
- ^[2] Australian Museum, 'Gang-gang Cockatoo', Distribution.
- ^[3] Australian Museum, 'Gang-gang Cockatoo', Feeding and diet.
- ^[4] Australian Museum, 'Gang-gang Cockatoo', Habitat.
- ^[5] Australian Museum, 'Gang-gang Cockatoo', Breeding behaviours.
- ^[6] Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment (DAWE), 'Conservation Advice for *Callocephalon fimbriatum* (Gang-gang Cockatoo)', *Australian Government* (2022), 7–9, <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/768-conservation-advice-02032022.pdf>, accessed 11 May 2023.
- ^[7] Department of Planning and Environment, 'Protected species', *NSW Government* (29 Dec. 2022), para. 1, <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/protected-species>, accessed 25 May, 2023.
- ^[8] Victorian Government, 'The importance of protecting wildlife', *Victorian Government* (15 Feb. 2022), para. 1, <https://www.vic.gov.au/regulating-protection-wildlife/importance-protecting-wildlife>, accessed 25 May 2023.
- ^[9] Australian Museum, 'Gang-gang Cockatoo', Size range.
- ^[10] Australian Museum, 'Gang-gang Cockatoo', Identification.
- ^[11] Department of Environment and Science (DES), 'Species profile—*Callocephalon fimbriatum* (gang-gang cockatoo)', *Queensland Government* (8 Mar. 2022), Scientific name, <https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/species-search/details/?id=19468>, accessed 11 May 2023.
- ^[12] BirdLife International, 'Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*', *BirdLife International* (2023), Red List Category, <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/gang-gang-cockatoo-callocephalon-fimbriatum>, accessed 11 May 2023.
- ^[13] DES, 'Species profile—*Callocephalon fimbriatum* (gang-gang cockatoo)', Class.
- ^[14] D. Lepage, 'Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum* (Grant, JE 1803)', *Avibase: The World Bird Database* (11 Jan. 2023), Maximum age, <https://avibase.bsc-eoc.org/species.jsp?lang=EN&avibaseid=49394DD2D0DE2E08&sec=lifehistory>, accessed 19 May 2023.
- ^[15] BirdLife International, 'Gang-gang Cockatoo *Callocephalon fimbriatum*', Population justification.
- ^[16] Booderee National Park, 'Gang-gang cockatoo', *Parks Australia* (2023), Sounds, <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/booderee/discover/nature/birds/gang-gang-cockatoo/>, accessed 19 May 2023.