

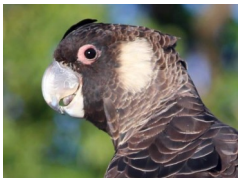
Carnaby's Black Cockatoo



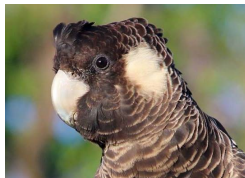
Endangered

Shire of Gingin

Carnaby's Black Cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) are found only in Western Australia and are an iconic species of the State. Unfortunately this bird species is **threatened with extinction** with estimates of between 11,000 and 60,000 left in the wild. In Aboriginal Noongar culture, the *ngoolark* is a sacred **Totem bird** and they refer to Carnaby's as a 'harbinger of rain'.



Male



Female

What do they look like?

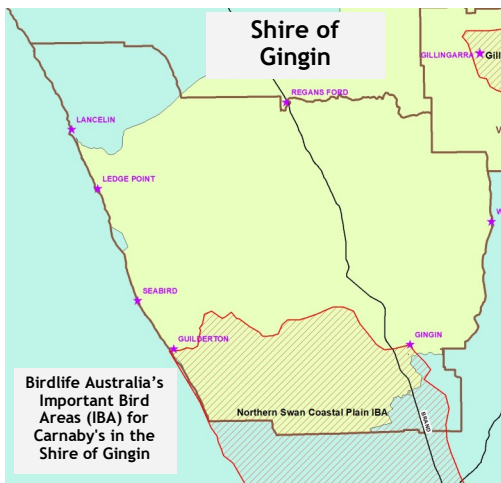
Carnaby's Black Cockatoos are large, raucous black cockatoos with white patches on their cheeks and white bands on their tails. They have strong short bills designed to cope with the hard nuts and seeds that form their diet.

Males have **red eye rings** and black bills whereas **females** have **grey eye rings** and a lighter grey or bone-coloured bills.

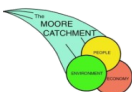
Where do they live?

Carnaby's Black Cockatoos are only found in **southwest Australia** - from the Murchison River across to Esperance and inland to Coorow and Lake Cronin.

The **Shire of Gingin** is a **significant location** for Carnaby's as a large part of the Shire contains Banksia heath and woodland, scattered Marri (*Corymbia callophylla*), and Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) (wetter southern parts), which is all **priority forage and roosting habitat**. They don't naturally breed in the Shire, they head inland to breed in the tall Eucalypt woodlands during winter.



Birdlife Australia's Important Bird Areas (IBA) for Carnaby's in the Shire of Gingin



Designed by Moore Catchment Council

Funded by State Natural Resource Management Program



natural resource
management program



Carnaby's Black Cockatoo ecology

Carnaby's Black Cockatoos are a **very mobile species** with movements throughout the year determined by nesting and feeding needs. From **late summer to winter** the cockatoos live in higher rainfall coastal or near **coastal areas** in large flocks. **July** is the beginning of the move back out to the Wheatbelt in search of suitable **nesting hollows** in **Salmon Gum** and **Wandoo** trees. The nesting season lasts from late winter through spring and into early summer when the cycle begins again.



A chick in the nest

The female cockatoo lays **two eggs** every year but usually only one chick is raised. During the

incubation period and while the chick is very young, the female only leaves the hollow for short periods during which time she is fed by the male. He must find enough food during

this period to sustain them all. When the chick is older the female joins in the search for food. Up to 12km is a reasonable distance for cockatoos to fly from the hollow in search of food and they are assisted in their navigation between sites by corridors or patches of vegetation. If feeding sites and nesting trees are too far apart, chicks will not survive.



A loving Carnaby couple

Threats to Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

Carnaby's have Federal and State protection as an **endangered species**.

Threats to their survival include:

- Feeding, roosting and breeding **habitat loss** from vegetation clearing for roads, urban and recreational developments, and agriculture;
- **Competition** for remaining breeding hollows from bees and other birds;
- **Lack of awareness** and information to the community, landowners and local governments on Carnaby issues and conservation.

CONSERVATION STATUS

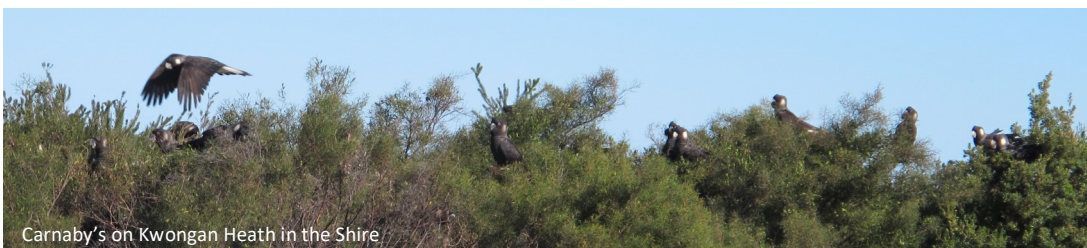
Australian Government: **ENDANGERED**

Environment Protection

and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Western Australia: **ENDANGERED**

Wildlife Conservation Act 1950



Carnaby's on Kwongan Heath in the Shire

Carnaby's habitat - what do they need to survive?

In the Shire of Gingin, during the non-breeding season (January-July) Carnaby's Black Cockatoos inhabit the **sandplain Eucalypt** and **Banksia woodlands** and heath. You will also see them in non-native pine plantations. They feed in heathland called **Kwongan heath**, on different types of **Proteaceous plant species** (Banksia, Grevillea, and Hakea species). They also feed on seeds of Eucalyptus species, and introduced species such as wild radish and **pin**es. These non-native species have become important sources of food and places to roost (Pines). The birds use these forage grounds to stock up for the following breeding season.



Native high priority forage plants for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

Food includes the flowers, nectar and seeds of **Banksia**, **Hakea**, **Eucalyptus**, **Corymbia**, **Grevillea**, also seeds of non native Pinus sp. Below are some priority species suited for the Shire of Gingin - sandplain, sandy-gravel or sandy-loam soils.



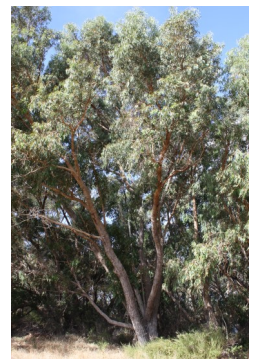
Carnaby's eating Marri honky nuts
(*Corymbia calophylla*)



Honeypot Dryandra
(*Banksia nivea*)



Parrot bush
(*Banksia sessilis*)



Tuart
(*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*)



Firewood Banksia
(*Banksia menziesii*)



Slender or Candle Banksia (*B. attenuate*), Acorn Banksia
(*B. prionotes*) & Swamp Banksia (*B. littoralis*)



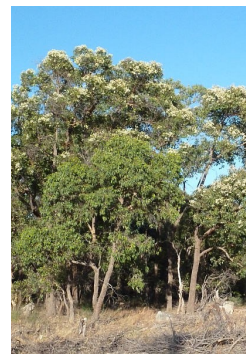
Wavy Leafed Hakea
(*Hakea undulata*)



Honeybush
(*Hakea lissocarpha*)



Harsh Hakea
(*Hakea prostrata*)



Marri/Red Gum
(*Corymbia calophylla*)

What you can do to help

Whether you are a big landholder, someone who has a small garden or just a visitor to the Shire, there are several things you can do to help the Carnaby's survive into the future.

- ☺ **Protect** and conserve known **feeding** and **roosting habitat** by fencing or excluding stock, protecting woodlands against firewood collection, leaving old or dead trees standing and ensuring appropriate fire management in native remnant vegetation.
- ☺ **Revegetate** degraded land with known feeding and roosting **habitat** using appropriate **local species**. **Reduce** use of **chemical herbicides** and pesticides on canola and wild radish (preferred Carnaby food, but sprays have often killed birds in the past).
- ☺ **Provide watering points** especially during hotter weather.
- ☺ **Support artificial nest** installation projects in known breeding areas. Designs include the wooden nesting log and the popular plastic pipe 'Cockietube'.
- ☺ Help the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo by **reporting** any harmful activities that you see to the Department of the Environment or WA's Environmental Regulations Department, and also your local Minister.
- ☺ **Join** a Carnaby group such as **Kerkhof Carnaby Group** in Moora or **Chittering Wildlife Carers** (Bindoon). Become a Birds Australia **volunteer** or **join** your local **Landcare group** such as **Moore Catchment Council** (Moora) or **Chittering Landcare Group** (Muchea). Take part in the Birdlife Great Cocky Count in April.



Carnaby's in Canola



Thirsty Carnabys



Carnaby's flying over the Moore River estuary

Moore Catchment Council has a long term project to create habitat and raise awareness of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo including highlighting detrimental threats and ways to help them survive.

Please contact MCC on 9653 1355 or moorecc@bigpond.com for more information.