

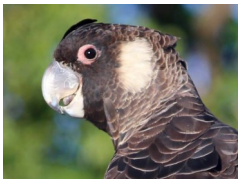
# Carnaby's Black Cockatoo



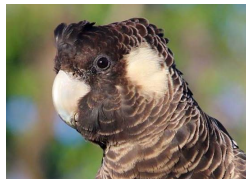
**Endangered**

## Shire of Moora

**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?

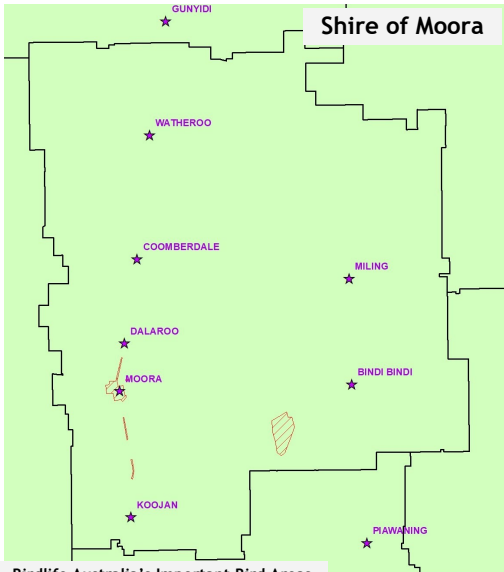
Carnaby's Black Cockatoos are large, raucous black cockatoos with white patches on their cheeks and white bands on their tails. They have strong short bills designed to cope with the hard nuts and seeds that form their diet.

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

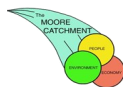
### Where do they live?

**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 Moora** is an **important location** for Carnaby's due to the presence of **old Salmon Gums and Wandoo** which are used as **breeding trees**. Trees of 150 years old plus have hollows used by the Carnabys to breed and raise their chicks. There is also good **forage habitat** around the shire which contains species such as Grevilleas, Banksias and Hakeas which the birds love.



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



Designed by  
Moore Catchment Council

Funded by Iluka



**ILUKA**

## 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



A loving Carnaby couple

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.

## Threats to Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

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

### CONSERVATION STATUS

**Australian Government:** **ENDANGERED**

*Environment Protection*

*and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

**Western Australia:** **ENDANGERED**

*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*

**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.



Moora water trough nightly meet-ups

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

In the Shire of Moora, Carnaby's Black Cockatoos generally are seen between **July and February** each year when they return to their breeding grounds. These are the remnant eucalypt woodlands, predominately **Salmon gum or Wandoo** (White Gum). They feed in heathland called Kwongan heath, on different types of banksia, grevillea, and hakea species. They also feed on seeds of eucalyptus species, and introduced species such as wild radish and pines. **Breeding Carnabys need a combination** of good breeding hollows - natural or artificial, and suitable species to forage on else populations will continue to decline.



Carnaby hen in natural hollow in Salmon Gum, Moora

## 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 Moora - clay-loam, sandy-gravel or loam soils.



Carnaby's eating Banksia cones



Honeypot Dryandra (*Banksia nivea*)



Parrot bush (*Banksia sessilis*)



Wandoo/White Gum (*Eucalyptus wandoo*)



Emu bush (*Hakea francisiana*)



Acorn Banksia (*B. prionotes*) & Swamp Banksia (*B. littoralis*) for sandy soils



Salmon Gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*)



One-sided Bottlebrush (*Calothamnus quadrifidus*)



Honeybush (*Hakea lissocarpa*)



Red hooks (*Grevillea hookeriana*)



## 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 log nest 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. Become a Birds Australia **volunteer** or **join** your local **Landcare group** such as **Moore Catchment Council** (Moora) or **NACC** (Geraldton). Take part in the Birdlife Great Cocky Count in April.



Carnaby's in *Hakea trifurcata*



Artificial log nest with chick



Carnaby's drinking (K Lightbody)

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](mailto:moorecc@bigpond.com) for more information.