



CARNABY'S COCKATOOS NEED OUR HELP!

Once common throughout our region to the wheat belt, official estimates suggest Carnaby's Cockatoo has declined by at least 50% across its former range and continues to do so. In reality there may now be as few as 25,000 left. They are a protected species, and listed as Vulnerable. But a more accurate listing of Endangered would require Government protection of all habitats they use, an outcome many stakeholders would lobby against. Carnaby's Cockatoo is symbolic of the daily loss of our natural heritage and of the urgent challenge we have to ensure that our growth is sympathetic to it, before it is gone forever.

- **WHY HAVE THEY DECLINED?**

Mainly from loss of breeding and foraging habitats on the wheat belt, coastal plain and in the South West due to unsustainable levels of land clearance for agriculture and other development. The lack of Banksia woodlands and Kwongan heath land on the wheat belt results in chicks starving to death as adults cannot find sufficient food for them close enough to the nest. Cockatoos are also dependent on the hollows in old Salmon Gum, Wandoo and other Eucalypts for nesting (which can take 150 years to form). Competition for these is occurring with escaped feral bees (from hives), introduced Rainbow Lorikeets and increasing numbers of pink Galahs. Poachers steal eggs and chicks, often damaging hollows in the process. Landowners can help by retaining trees where ever possible. Artificial "cockatubes" or nest tubes are being installed to supplement lost hollows, but require maintenance. If you are considering these on your land please inform DEC or Birds Australia so that monitoring can occur as part of the official Carnaby's Cockatoo Recovery Project.

- **WHY DO WE SEE SO MANY, IF THEY ARE DECLINING?**

Carnaby's Cockatoos congregate through autumn towards the coast. Sadly, because they are long lived (up to 50yrs) most of the birds we see are too old to breed or have been unsuccessful in doing so. Many return inland during July to try to breed. It's estimated that only approximately 5% of all chicks make it to become magnificent adult birds. It appears that fewer birds are making this journey each year. Two eggs are usually laid but commonly only one survives.

- **THEY DAMAGE ORNAMENTAL AND FRUIT TREES!**

Their natural food sources have become scarce, being largely cleared since European settlement. Everything must eat! If you lose some fruit or nuts to them, consider their plight. Commercial orchardists are still shooting around 500 each year and face heavy fines if caught. Shooting birds is ultimately ineffective and the Dept. of Conversation can advise on how to protect commercial crops sensibly. In the wild the birds feeding naturally provides a source of food for other creatures on the ground such as lizards and insects, all part of the natural web of life. They also help rid trees and shrubs of pests such as borers and are often wrongly thought to be destroying such trees. If you have fruit or nuts being eaten, think about putting bird netting over the top, early in the season. Grow your own Black Cockatoo Friendly Fruit! (See Dawson's extensive fruit list).

• WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre (located at the old Cohuna Wildlife Park on Mills Road East) is run by volunteers, and works closely with vets at Perth Zoo and the Dept. of Conservation to rehabilitate and release birds back to their family groups (which readily accept them) in the wild. Birds cared for include those with wounds from gunshot, or those hit by passing cars whilst feeding on remnant native roadside vegetation or are separated and hurt during storms. Donations are greatly appreciated and go directly to helping save this iconic West Australian bird. The centre has been able to successfully release several hundred fully rehabilitated birds so far and plans for the future include an expanded hospital and breeding programs. Lobby your local authorities to assist by using local species wherever possible in their projects. If you own land you could consider signing up to the ever growing Land For Wildlife program co-ordinated by Dept. of Conservation which offers free help and advice on increasing habitat on private land.

• PLANT COCKATOO FOOD PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN.

Here is a list of species commonly available at **Dawson's Garden World** stores.

- *Banksia. Including Dryandras.*
- *Callistemon. Wide range usually available.*
- *Callitris priesii. The quick growing Rottnest Island pine.*
- *Eucalyptus species. Provide food, nesting, lookout and roosting habitat.*
- *Grevilleas. Wide range of varieties available.*
- *Hakea laurina and other types often available.*

Please ask staff for assistance and suggestions with other native selections. They are low water use plants and help to make our gardens valuable havens for all our flora and fauna. It is our aim at Dawson's to provide great advice on gardening in an increasingly sympathetic way with our environment. For more info on how to help these beautiful birds, visit www.blackcockatoorescue.com



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