*Callocephalon fimbriatum* Gang-gang Cockatoo COLOUR PLATE FACING PAGE 128

*Psittacus fimbriatus* Grant, 1803, Narr. *Voy. Discov. New* South *Wales,* Pl. opp. p. 135 — Bass River, Victoria.

The generic name refers to the colourful crested head, from the Greek <snip>, beauty, and <snip>, headed (from <snip>, head). Specifically named for the forward-curving filamentous crest (from Latin *fimbriatus,* fringed).

OTHER ENGLISH NAMES Helmeted, Red-crowned or Red-headed Cockatoo; Red-crowned or Red-headed Parrot; Galah; Ganga; Cockatoo Corella.

MONOTYPIC

*Callocephalon* fimbriatum 95

**FIELD IDENTIFICATION** Length: male 32-36 cm, fe­male 34-37 cm; wingspan: male 65-76 cm, female 62-73 cm; weight *c.* 250 g. Unmistakable. Small, rather stocky cockatoo with: characteristically big, square-headed appearance; short wispy crest; rather broad rounded wings; and short, broad, square-ended tail. Slightly bigger and much bulkier than Galah *Eolophus roseicapillus.* Creaky growling call distinctive. Sexes differ markedly. No seasonal or geographical variation. Juvenile and immature males separable, females of these age-classes doubtfully so. **Adult** male Forehead, crown, nape, crest, lores, ear-coverts and most of cheeks, bright red, forming distinctive helmet; feathers of wispy crest, fine, curved forward and twisted. Rest of head and neck, dark grey with fine off-white scalloping. Upperbody, dark grey with fine pale fringes to feathers, giving barred appearance to mantle, back, scapulars and tertials. Uppertail, dark grey, slightly darker at tip. Upperwing, dark grey with fine pale fringes to secondary coverts and yellow-green wash on secondaries and greater secondary coverts. Underbody, dark grey with narrow pale fringes that give scalloped appear­ance; fringes usually off-white but in some, pale yellow or dull orange-red. Undertail, dark grey. Underwing, dark grey with fine off-white barring on coverts. Bill has flaky texture; upper mandible, grey, grading to white at tip; lower mandible, white. Iris, black. Orbital ring, grey. Legs and feet, grey. **Adult female** Differences from male: Head and crest, dark grey, with indis­tinct fine pale-grey fringes to feathers; some have indistinct dull orange-red fringes to feathers of forehead, crown, nape and lower cheeks. Feathers of upperparts and innerwing-coverts have prominent pale-yellow subterminal bands, giving more heavily barred appearance; rest of upperwing and uppertail marked with narrow diffuse wavy pale bars. Underbody, from foreneck to vent, more broadly and heavily barred orange and pale yellow, and undertail-coverts more heavily barred pale yellow. Undertail has indistinct pale barring and underwing heavily barred off-white. **Juvenile male** Pattern of plumage broadly similar to that of adult female, differing by: Forehead and crown mostly red, with varying patchy dark-grey barring; crest wholly red, as adult male, but distinctly shorter, less upcurved and less twisted. Upperparts and upperwing, duller, with incomplete and much less distinct pale barring. Broken pale-yellow and orange barring on breast gives less neatly barred appearance, and rest of underbody often duller. Underwing­coverts more sparsely spotted and barred. Bill like that of adult but with smooth (not flaky) texture; legs and feet, pink. Juve­nile **female** Very similar to adult female. Best separated by shorter, less upcurved and twisted crest and smoother texture of bill (as in juvenile male). **Immature male** Very similar to adult male, differing by irregular faint pale barring through tail.

**Similar species** Generally unmistakable; flying birds seen against light could be mistaken for **Galah** (see that text).

Gregarious; during breeding season, usually seen in pairs or family groups, but at other times may form small flocks of up to 60 birds. Mainly inhabit tall eucalypt forests and adjacent woodlands; occasionally in urban parks and gardens, especially during winter. Generally quiet and inconspicuous; feeding groups often first located by distinctive growling call-notes, cracking sounds of seed-capsules being torn open, or noise of falling debris. Tame, often allowing close approach; if disturbed, usu­ally climb to higher branches or fly to next tree. Mainly arboreal, coming to ground only to drink or to examine fallen nuts and pine-cones. Gait awkward and waddling, as other cockatoos. FLIGHT: Distinctive; normal flight strong, heavy and direct, with slow deep wing-beats; at other times, flight loose and tilting with deep wing-beats, recalling Galah; at end of long flights, spiral downward, twisting and turning in manner of Galah; in short flights from one tree to next, swoop down toward ground then rise up before alighting. Flight-silhouette broadly similar to Galah, but appear bulkier and bigger-headed, with broader, more rounded wings and shorter, broader, square-ended tail. Contact call usually uttered in flight or from crown of tree: distinctive prolonged rasping screech or creaky growl, ending with an abrupt, upward inflection; likened to sound of rusty hinge or of tightly fitting cork being removed from bottle. Feeding birds give soft growling note.