

Glossary

- Accipiter** Genus of near cosmopolitan, mostly woodland and forest, hawks (goshawks and sparrowhawks) characterised by short wings and long tail.
- Accipitridae/Accipitriformes** Family and order of hawks, kites, eagles and Old World vultures.
- Aerial** Capable of flight, as opposed to **arboreal** or **terrestrial**.
- Agonistic** Attack and fleeing behaviour, related to nest and territory protection, and social dominance and submission.
- Allopatry** When two or more populations occupy completely separated geographic areas, at least during breeding, for example, Whistling Kites and Powerful Owls in the ACT.
- Allopreen** When some raptors such as owls and eagles preen (groom) a conspecific, usually their mate or sibling, often the partner's head, in pair bonding.
- Altricial** Young hatched blind and relatively helpless, that is, all raptor young (versus **nidifugous**).
- Alula** Cluster of miniature flight feathers at the wrist area used for braking and slow flying.
- Ambush hunting** Remaining concealed on a cliff, in a tree, or other perch waiting for prey to appear.
- Anisodactyl** Avian foot arranged with three toes forward and one back (all diurnal raptors except Osprey) (see also **Zygodactyl**).
- Arboreal** Frequenting trees as opposed to **aerial** or **terrestrial**.
- Arthropod** An invertebrate with hard exoskeleton and jointed legs such as an insect, spider or crab.
- Bandicoot** Small ground-dwelling marsupial of the family Peramelidae, never recorded in the ACT, but caught by eagles there.
- Biomass** Total weight of organisms taken as prey or in a given area of land.
- Bloom** A coating of fine dust, often greyish, especially on the back of some raptors, produced by specialised powder on down feathers.
- Booted** Fully feathered tarsus, as in 'booted eagles'.
- Brancher** A nearly grown diurnal or nocturnal raptor that has left the nest but cannot fly properly.
- Brooding** Parent sitting or crouched over young, resting somewhat higher than when they are incubating.
- Brood patch** Patch of denuded skin on the belly of many birds – mainly female, rich in blood vessels that supply heat during incubation and brooding. Helpful for sexing certain owls.
- Cache** To hide surplus killed prey in crevices, nests, tree forks, etc. for later retrieval.
- Cain and Abel struggle** A larger, usually older sibling kills or evicts a younger sibling from the nest.