

The 2017 Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project

Once widespread and abundant, the charismatic Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia* is now threatened over their south-eastern Australian range. Particularly since the 1950s their population has steadily declined and at present there may be as few as 400 mature individuals left in Australia, with only 50 or so left in Victoria.



The Regent Honeyeater

Photo: Chris Tzaros

The Regent Honeyeater is classified as Critically Endangered both nationally and in Victoria.

The 2017 Regent Honeyeater Captive Release and Community Monitoring Project is one of many actions defined in the species' National Recovery Plan.

In April 2017, 101 Regent Honeyeaters were released; the fifth and largest release to date. Over 180 birds have been released previously (2008, 2010, 2013 and 2015). The project aims to supplement the north-east Victoria and southern NSW populations, and to increase community awareness and participation in the Regent's conservation program.



A Group of Keen Birders

Photo: Glen Johnson

Other National Recovery Plan actions include:

- A number of landscape-scale revegetation and habitat protection and enhancement programs (i.e. Regent Honeyeater Project around Lurg)
- Research. This year, in Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park there is an Honours project and a PhD project underway.
- Twice annual nation-wide Regent Honeyeater/ Swift Parrot surveys



A Regent wearing a Radio Transmitter

Photo: Dean Ingwersen

Approximately 40 were fitted with a radio-transmitter that has a 10-12 week battery life. Volunteers play a key role in the community monitoring project which aims to document the Regents survival, movements, breeding and interactions with wild birds.

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How you can get involved:

- By volunteering to help radio-track and search for birds in the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park and the surrounding area. It is expected that post release monitoring will continue until at least September 2017. If you would like to get involved, please contact Elizabeth Wemyss at elizabeth.wemyss@delwp.vic.gov.au or phone 0477 312 592.
- By reporting any sightings of Regent Honeyeaters to BirdLife Australia or DELWP. Birds from each captive release year can be identified by their unique colour leg band combinations (two on each leg). This year the 2017 release birds can be identified by Orange over Metal on either leg (see adjacent photo). For more information, see the 'The Regent Honeyeater: If you see one, we'd love to hear from you' flyer.
- By protecting and enhancing habitat including conservation covenants, remnant fencing on private land and planting native blossoming or nectar producing species in your garden. For more information please contact the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) about their incentives program



Radio Tracking

Photo: Glen Johnson



2017 Master Bands

Photo: Dean Ingwersen



Regent Field Base Camp

Photo: Glen Johnson

The 2017 Regent Honeyeater Captive Release and Community Monitoring Project is collaboratively funded by the DELWP/Victorian Government' Icon Threatened Species Project, Birdlife Australia, NSW Government's Environment Trust, Taronga Conservation Society and the NECMA via the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.



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