

Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #44 – 1 April 2023

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group), this update provides a summary of late 2022 Regent observations in NE Victoria and our seasonal flowering prospects for the coming months.

Update #44 – 6yrs post 2017 release

Landholder Geoff Barrow first recorded a pair of Regents on his Carboor (Trust for Nature covenanted) property, 36km SE of Wangaratta on 26th September 2022.

The pair comprised a banded male and wild (un-banded) female. The male was missing its master-coloured band



Singing in the rain
'UBOM' (missing Orange band)
Photo: Daniel Terrington

UBOM story

Dale Terrington captured numerous photos to confirm the unique number stamped on the metal band and hence its identity. Mauve Blue/Orange Metal (UBOM) was released in April 2017 in Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park (CMPNP) at just over 1 year 3 months old. It was routinely recorded until October that year. He was next recorded in August 2019, again in Chiltern.

UBOM was last seen in August 2020 (yet again in CMPNP) – see [Community Update #39](#). At that time it was paired with a wild female, and over several weeks, they had two unsuccessful nest attempts (the second failure occurred just into incubation period).



Nest material collection
Photo: Geoff Barrow

Carboor nesting

Geoff's observations revealed nest building commenced (in the base of a mistletoe) on 29th September, and incubation on the 6th of October. Unfortunately, a 128 ml rain event, 10 days into incubation, (likely) caused the nest to be abandoned. This was one of only a handful of breeding attempts recorded across the species SE Australian range over the 22/23 breeding season. The pair were observed for almost another month in the area before moving on. It's the second recorded time UBOM has paired with a wild female.



Wild female sitting on
'Mistletoe' nest
Photo: Geoff Barrow



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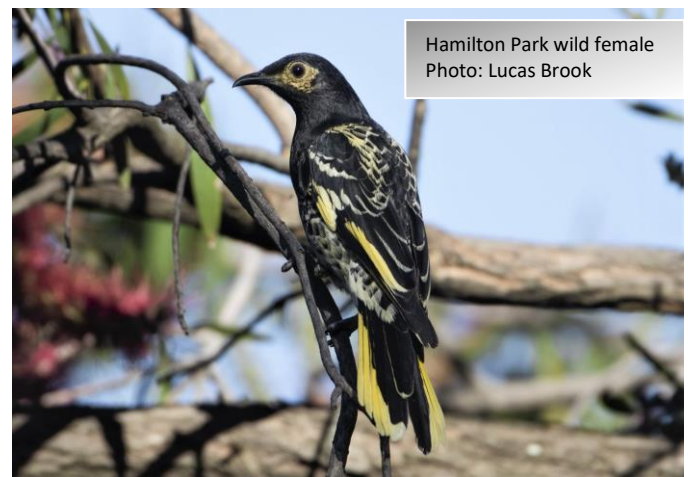
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Carboor wild female
Photo: Daniel Terrington

This magic location has done it again – this time in late November 2022. Residents Dale Unwin and Lucas Brook teamed up to help chronicle a ten day stay of a lone, wild female (a great feat given females basically don't call - so monitoring success is solely dependent on visual observations). Dale's flowering Callistemon (Bottlebrush) was the focus for much of the observations. Hamilton Park's unique Warby Range back drop, its fantastic remnant vegetation parklands and large private gardens that support an array of flowering natives, makes this a biodiversity hot spot.



Hamilton Park wild female
Photo: Lucas Brook

When last seen UBOM was just under seven years old.



Red Box 'Mistletoe' nest
location (circled) with
Geoff Barrow
Photo: Glen Johnson



Lucas Brook & Dale Unwin
Photo: Glen Johnson

Hamilton Park does it again

Our September 2022 [Community Update #43](#) revealed the first (record breaking) observation of a Regent seven years post its release. White-Orange Red Metal (WORM) – a member of the 2015 release cohort - was discovered in Hamilton Park, 8km southwest of Wangaratta in North-east Victoria. At the time WORM was just under eight years old.

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Regional Flowering Update

Current conditions and prospects are good for nectar sippers in our region.

Chiltern Mt. Pilot National Park has five eucalypt species **currently in flower**.

Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*) is on the tail end of what has been an amazing flowering period that commenced in January. Grey Box (*E. microcarpa*) is similarly impressive – and currently at the peak of its flowering. Key species of particular interest to Regents - Mugga Ironbark (*E. sideroxylon*) and White Box (*E. albens*) - have both just commenced flowering. The Mugga flowering is later than normal and its budding looks to be slightly below average this year, but White Box budding is prolific and in combination there are months of prospective flowering to come. Apple Box or But But (*E. bridgesiana*) is the other species currently in flower. Species that will flower later in the season include Red Box (*E. polyanthemos*), Blakely's Red Gum (*E. blakelyi*) and Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*). All are holding heaps of bud currently.

Stay-tuned - we'll be hosting Regent/Swift Parrot search days in Chiltern in May 2023.



Thanks Dean

Dean Ingwersen served with distinction as the Regent Honeyeater Recovery Team Coordinator since 2009. As BirdLife Australia's Woodland Bird Program Leader, he co-managed the planning and delivery of our five Chiltern release and monitoring projects. His mist netting, bird banding, photography, radio tracking harness attachment and monitoring skills were critical to the success of this program.

Dean left BirdLife Australia in September last year. We thank Dean for his unparalleled commitment to Regent Honeyeater conservation and wish him all the very best in his new role.

Mick Roderick is now BirdLife Australia's Regent Honeyeater contact. mick.roderick@birdlife.org.au



Please report any Regent sightings ASAP

Keep an eye and ear open for Regents in your patch of **flowering bush** or native garden.

Remember to grab your binoculars, check for and record any leg bands present and where possible, take and forward photographs. **Let us know ASAP** so we can help confirm identification, check for additional bird presence and or breeding.

Glen Johnson DEECA 0418 501 936
Mick Roderick BirdLife Australia 1800 621 056



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