

Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #41 – 4 Nov 2020

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group),

Update #41 – 3.5yrs+ post 2017 release

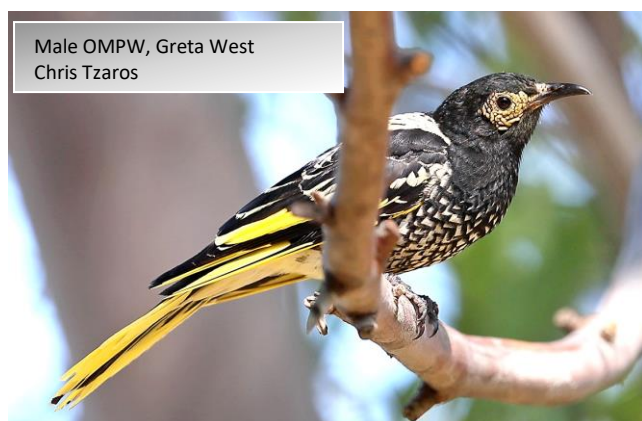
Last [Update #40](#) included fantastic news of the successful fledging of triplets from one Regent clutch in Chiltern. [Check out the video](#) showing day one and day 12 post fledge footage.

Another fledgling – this time in Greta West

In a further huge boost to the Captive Release and National Recovery programs, another successful breeding event has been recently documented - this time in Greta West, NE Victoria.



The Regents were spotted by Lorraine Griffiths in the farm garden of David and Lorraine's Greta West property which is currently a kaleidoscope of dozens of flowering native trees and shrubs.



The sighting and successful breeding event is a great reward for:

- David & Lorraine and their son Anthony and daughter-in-law Roze for decades of dedication to revegetation and habitat plantings across the Griffiths' four linked properties
- the [Greta Valley Landcare Group](#)
- the [Regent Honeyeater Project](#)
- and more recently [NECMA](#) via the [Bush for Birds](#) program.

The combined efforts of these groups have resulted in many hundreds of hectares of habitat being restored in the broader Greta Valley and Lurg Hill area to aid Regent Honeyeaters and woodland fauna conservation.

When bands go missing

The male Greta West Regent had one metal band on its left leg, but all other colour bands had fallen off. Its female partner was a wild female (no leg bands including no metal band present).

This raised the prospect of the Greta West Regent parents being the same birds recorded in Chiltern in May [Update #36](#) and then recorded for five weeks on flowering Spotted Gum in the vicinity of Hume Weir Spillway on the Vic NSW border ([Update #38](#)).



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When colour bands go missing, the unique (and tiny) 5-digit number engraved on the metal band holds the sole identification key. Fortunately, Chris Tzaros's photos provided unequivocal evidence that this Regent was another 2017 released bird - but different to the one recorded on the Hume Weir spillway. The male Greta West bird formerly wore Orange Metal (OM left leg) Green White (P=Green W=White right leg) band combinations.

OMPW was last seen on 3 Nov. 2017 – not long after our project monitoring team recorded it in an unsuccessful breeding attempt with a captive reared female released in the same year.



As a member of the 2017 release cohort, OMPW now becomes the:

- 17th Regent that has been recorded alive 12 months or longer post release.
- 5th Regent observed this year (2017 cohort)- now three years post release
- 3rd male bird (2017 cohort) that has been selected by and partnered with a wild female this year.

This is the 4th documented pairing of Regents involving at least one 2017 release bird this year. Three of these pairs have been recorded nesting this year with two being successful - resulting in four fledglings in total.

Going Wild

These results provide further evidence of the ability for captive reared birds to integrate and successfully breed with wild birds – now many years post their release. It also demonstrates that captive release programs can increase wild population numbers, thereby helping build species resilience.

Officer Update

Last [Update \(#40\)](#) we reported that Jennifer Tyres, a resident in Officer, Cardinia Shire (48 kms SE of Melbourne), was the latest in a string of landholders to record the 2015 released male Regent OMBY. Five weeks on it's still a daily visitor to her bird bath and garden.



Please report any Regent sightings asap:

Keep an eye and ear open for Regents (including fledgling birds) that may be visit bird baths on farms and in bush and urban gardens as temperatures rise. This is even more likely where gardens support a profusion of flowering plants, particularly native *Grevillea*, *Banksia* and bottlebrush.

Remember to grab your bino's, check for and record any leg bands present, and where possible take and forward photographs.

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