

Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #40 – 19 Oct 2020

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group),

Update #40 – 3.5yrs+ post 2017 release

The ties that bind

Last [Update #39](#) reported nest building by a pair of 2017 release birds on private land in the Chiltern area. The female Orange-Metal Blue-Yellow (OMBY) is now five years of age and the male Orange-Metal Pink-Pink (OMKK) is now four years old. As demonstrated by a series of sightings and reported in [Update #34](#) these particular birds were a 'strong' pair in Aug/Sept 2019. The combined observations make the first documented case of a Regent Honeyeater pair-bond lasting more than one breeding season!

Triple treat!

Successful Regent breeding events (involving wild or ex captive birds) occur but are rare. They are the exception not the rule. Nests that result in **three** (so far) successfully fledged birds from the one clutch are **extremely rare**.



Male OMKK - day 1 post fledge
Glen Johnson

Given banded wild Regents have been recorded alive at 11 years, surviving 2017 released birds still have many more potential productive years ahead of them.

Accordingly, this result is a significant event for the National Recovery Team and the captive breeding, release and monitoring program.

Photos on this page show fledglings only a day after leaving the nest, but at the time of print (19th Oct - 12 days post-fledge) all **three** are still alive and healthy, and while still dependent on their parents, they are mobile and have commenced feeding themselves nectar and lerp ([see page 3 photos](#)).



Female OMBY - day 1 post fledge
Glen Johnson

Another (but different) Blue Yellow!

Readers will recall June 2020 [Update #37](#) Blue-Yellow Red-Metal – a male **2015** released bird – became the first captive bred Regent Honeyeater sighted five years after its release. Coongulla in Gippsland was the unlikely location for its long-awaited re-sighting. [Update #38](#) followed its month long Coongulla reporting period.

Coongulla to Toomuc Valley



BYRM
Kate Newman



MONASH University



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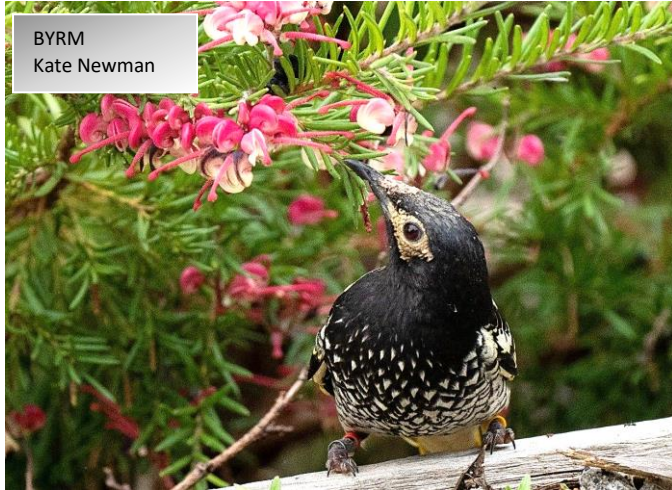
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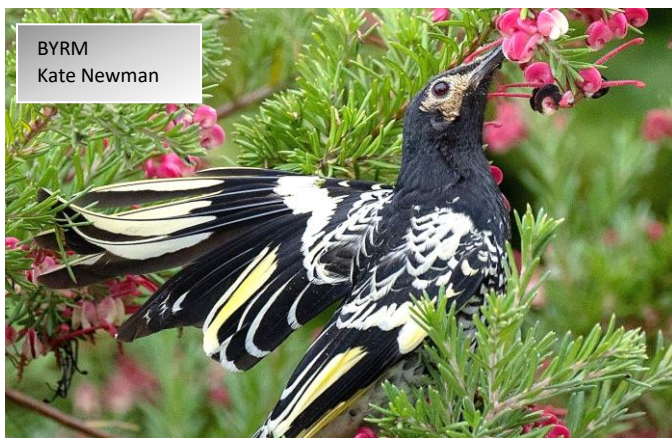
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Several months later BYRM was recorded by Toomuc Valley (near Pakenham) landholder Deb Newman over 110km further west of Congulla.



Deb's garden with its Grevillea, Red Hot Pokers and the bush surrounds proved irresistible attractions during this Regent's week-long stay.



Toomuc Valley to Officer

Seven days and 6kms south of Deb's last Toomuc Valley observation, Jennifer Tyres in Officer was the next to observe BYRM where it has since stayed for over two weeks. BYRM is now almost seven years old (remember they can live in the wild to at least 11 years of age) and more than 2,000 days have elapsed since it's April 2015 release!

Check the map at the end of this update showing BYRM's amazing journey over the last five years. Where will it turn up next? Keep your eyes open!



Corowa Regent sighting

Robert Rowe recorded a sole Regent in Corowa (2 & 3 Oct 2020). The wild bird was in close association with and even mimicked Red Wattlebirds.



Please report any Regent / Swift sightings asap:

Glen Johnson DELWP 0418 501 936
Mick Roderick BirdLife Australia 0421 761 237

PTO to view day 12 post-fledge photos and a map showing BTRM's 5-year journey.



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Day 12 post fledge OMBY,
Glen Johnson



Day 12 post fledge nectar feeding
Glen Johnson



Map showing Blue-Yellow Red-Metal sighting locations since its April 2015 release

