

# 2017 Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #21 21 Nov. 2017

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group)  
**2017 Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project - Update #21 (Day 222 - end of week 32 - post release report)**

## Unlucky Dip

One of the last nests to be monitored in Chiltern came to a familiar 'nest failed' end - but there was a further unfortunate twist in the tale.

Orange/Metal Yellow/Black had been diligently incubating for a couple of weeks but around the time its eggs were due to hatch last week she went missing (despite the male still being observed in the nest area).

Days later part of the puzzle was solved (or perhaps made more confounding) when she was found dead in the middle of town (Chiltern) - approximately 5km from the nest area. The bird's death coincided with a rain event - she was found drowned - unwittingly unable to get out of a bucket positioned under an overflow gutter that she'd chosen to dip into. Nest surveillance footage is still to be analysed to determine whether the eggs were predated i.e. find out why she abandoned ship (the nest) beforehand.



## Regent numbers

As predicted last update birds have moved on and our ability to locate Regents has significantly diminished, hence recorded numbers have accordingly plummeted.

And although nine birds were recorded in the last two weeks, only the nesting pair in Wangaratta are now being routinely observed. We've even lost track of the two remaining birds with working transmitters - despite widespread searches beyond the park.

However, in addition to the birds mentioned above we received reports this week of a pair of Regents in Glenrowan and a single bird in Carboor (55 & 60km respectively from Chiltern)

## Accordingly, we're suspending the Volunteer Monitoring Program

Keen regulars can still help (contact Liz) but we'll no longer coordinate the five days per week volunteer monitoring program.

## Well Done & Thanks

Thanks so much to over 210 members of the community that have contributed over 3000 volunteer hours in the past 32 weeks. Over 6,200 individual Regent Honeyeater observations have been logged into our Regent Honeyeater app over that time.

## Spot a Regent in the meantime?

Now that they are on the move, it's even more likely you'll encounter Regents in flowering native gardens, remnant patches of bush in blossom or dipping into bird baths or farm dams.

Please let us know **ASAP** if you spot any or hear of Regent observations (so we can follow-up to check for further birds etc.). Remember to check for bands with binoculars and take & forward photos where possible.

Please contact us if you have any queries,  
**Cheers Glen, Dean, Liz, Gem & David**  
**(2017 Regent Honeyeater Community Monitoring Project Coordinating Team)**



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