Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #29

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group), Update #29 - 19 months post release

Last box

Over the course of the release program we've demonstrated that:

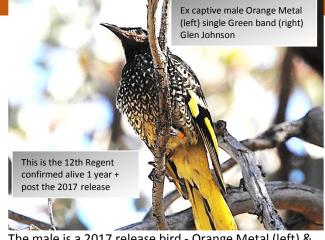
- \checkmark captive reared birds can survive in the wild long term (many years) post release &
- \checkmark have the ability to move 100's km across fragmented landscapes (& return)
- ✓ ex-captive females and males can breed in the wild and successfully recruit birds into the population
- ex-captive females can successfully mate with \checkmark wild males and recruit birds into the population



The 'last box to be ticked' is the documentation of a successful wild female / ex-captive male breeding event. Despite more recent protocols instituted by Taronga that include playing wild Regent audio into captive bird holding facilities, lingering doubts remained about the authenticy of released bird calls - and whether released male suitors would be able to successfully attract & woo a wild female partner.

Jackpot

 \checkmark We can now report a successful wild female / ex-captive male breeding event. This is the only successful breeding event recorded to date this season (Australia wide).



The male is a 2017 release bird - Orange Metal (left) & is one of six potentially surviving males released with at least one green band on the right leg (this one is missing one band). Photographic investigations to determine the unique metal band number are pending.



Two fledglings around 2 weeks out of the nest have been raised on the edge of Chiltern Mt Pilot NP.



Please contact us if you have any queries: Glen Johnson DELWP 0418 501 936 Dean Ingwersen BirdLife Australia 0409348 55











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