

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:

- ✓ captive reared birds can survive in the wild long term (many years) post release &
- ✓ 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 wild males and recruit birds into the population



Wild female
Glen Johnson

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 authenticity of released bird calls – and whether released male suitors would be able to successfully attract & woo a wild female partner.

Jackpot

- ✓ 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).



Ex captive male Orange Metal (left) single Green band (right)
Glen Johnson

This is the 12th Regent confirmed alive 1 year + post the 2017 release

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.



Wild female feeding fledgling
Glen Johnson

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



Ex-captive male feeding on Red Box - second fledgling (sitting above).
Glen Johnson

Please contact us if you have any queries:

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