

Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #39 – 4 Sept 2020

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group),
Update #39 – 3.5yrs post 2017 release

What's the chances?

...of spotting a Regent Honeyeater on your first ever visit to Chiltern Mt Pilot NPark? What if you're solo on this first Chiltern trip and you've never even seen or heard a Regent before (and not following up on any special leads of Regent's being in the Park)?



Well if your Amy Naivasha ...chances are pretty high! Prior to the latest COVID lock down, Amy was staying with friends in Chiltern while on sabbatical (she was supposed to be overseas taking a year off teaching but COVID scuttled those plans). She sighted her first (then second) Regent on White Box walking track during her first trip to the Park. That evening back at her temporary Chiltern home, a 'Report a Regent' fridge magnet verified the importance of her observations and enabled further investigations.



Wild female paired with UBOM on first nest
 Glen Johnson



In Oct 2019 we mailed out Regent fridge magnets to Chiltern & district residents hoping to elicit sighting reports

It turned out that one of the Regents was a 2017 released male Mauve-Blue Orange-Metal (UBOM). Interestingly, this bird was last recorded a year ago (28/09/19) in the nearby Pooley's Track area. Importantly UBOM was paired with a wild female. Unfortunately two failed nest attempts have been subsequently recorded – the first likely abandonment following a significant multi-day rain event and the second ??? (well multiple Fuscous Honeyeater's were observed dismantling the nest).

More 2017 Regents

BirdLife Australia's regionally based Chris Timewell recently recorded another Regent pair while undertaking fieldwork on private land in the Chiltern area.



OMBY
 Glen Johnson



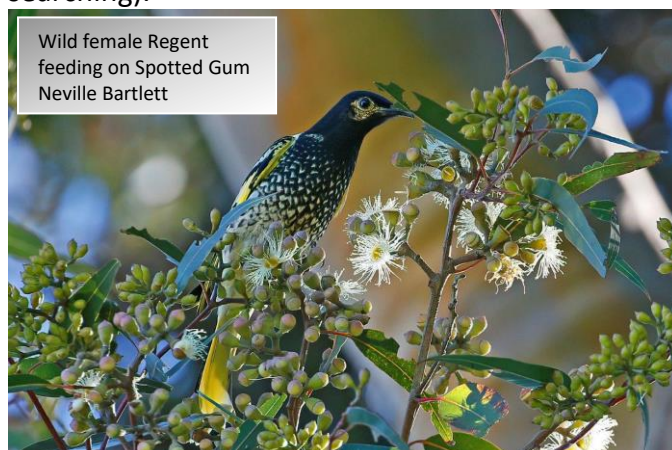
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Follow-up investigations revealed both Regents to be 2017 released birds – a male Orange-Metal Pink-Pink (OMKK) and female Orange-Metal Blue-Yellow (OMBY). This pair were last recorded in Chiltern during our August 2019 national Regent/Swift count weekend ([Update #34](#)). In a first for the species this makes the first documented case of a Regent pair bond lasting more than one breeding season!



Border Crossing updates

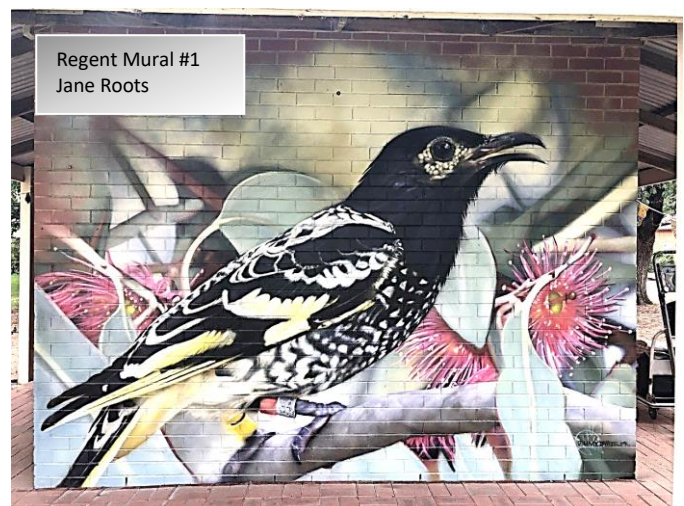
Regular readers will recall ([Update #36](#)) our 'one leg band only' Regent, Orange-Metal Green-Black (OMNP) with a wild female was recorded in Chiltern in May earlier this year. Our last [Update #38](#) documented the pair feeding on planted flowering Spotted Gum the Hume Weir wall area. Unfortunately, after five weeks of continuous observations in this spot, the pair have not been recorded in recent weeks (despite lots of searching).



Regent Murals

As part of DELWP's Icon Species Project a second Chiltern township wall art installation, this time commissioned by local Chiltern artist Kirrily Anderson, is due for completion in October. Kirrily's canvas is a huge 12x9m brick wall in the towns Recreation Reserve – and will feature a night-day transition of a box-ironbark landscape with a suite of local flora and fauna species – including the Regent Honeyeater.

This work builds on the first smaller mural in the town centre commissioned by Jimmy Dvate in December 2019. This mural featured one of the 2015 released birds - Yellow-Yellow Red-Metal – the first of several banded Regents to be recorded travelling 100's of kms to Gippsland – and return.



Bush for Birds - NECMA & Trust for Nature

[EOI's are open until 18th September](#) for landholder incentives to assist protection of habitat for Regent Honeyeater & Swift Parrot in the NECMA. [More information](#) on the Bush for Birds Program.

Please report any Regent / Swift sightings asap:

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