

2017 Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #24

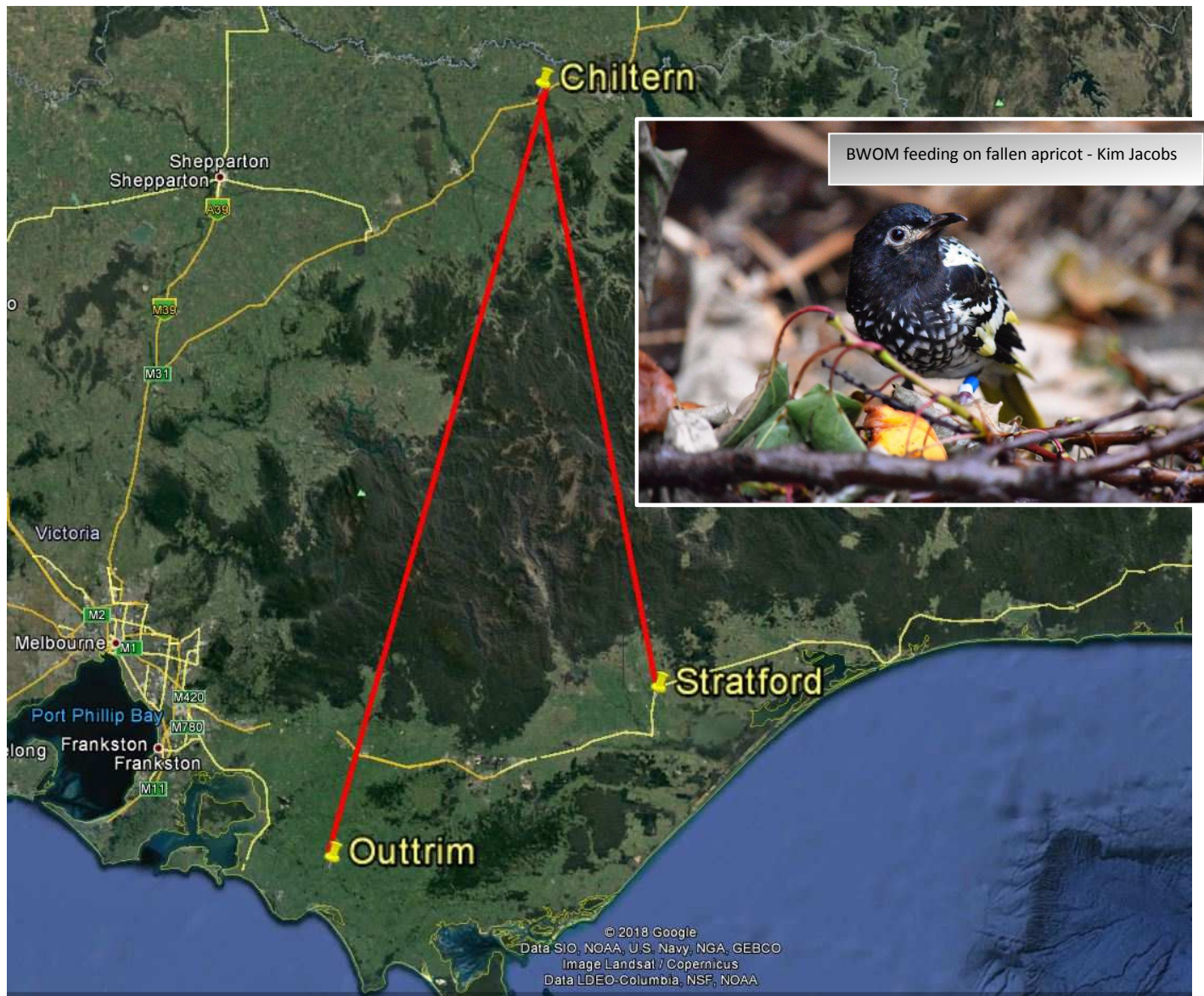
24 Jan. 2018

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group)

2017 Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project - Update #24 (Week 42 post release)

Gippsland Getaway

It's happened- or more importantly been recorded - again! Thanks to Stratford resident Kim Jacobs eagle eye and her camera at hand, we've now got the second confirmed evidence of an ex release Regent 'crossing the Alps' (or perhaps going the long route) to Gippsland.



BWOM feeding on fallen apricot - Kim Jacobs

Last time it was a November 2016 record of a 2015 released bird in Outtrim, this time it was a Jan 2018 record of one of our 2017 released birds (Blue White Orange Metal - BWOM). Note the Outtrim bird returned to Chiltern this year (recorded from June to Oct. inclusive) so we'll be keeping watch for BWOM returning too.



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Stratford sighting

BWOM was observed for around a week during mid-January in Kim's garden and as the earlier photo demonstrated the Regent dined out on over ripening Apricots as well as hawking insects during its Stratford stay.



BWOM - Kim Jacobs

Wait - there's more

There's been additional sightings of wild (un banded) Regents in the Nowa Nowa area east of Bairnsdale over Nov. & Dec. 2017 demonstrating (amongst other places) that there's a potential late Spring Summer Regent link to Gippsland.

Meanwhile back in the North East

We finally lost track of the two-remaining transmitter wearing birds with their respective batteries failing before and just after Xmas.

Interestingly one of the birds, Orange Metal Pink Black ended up doing 'a full circle' back into the Chiltern Mt. Pilot NP. Its last week of sightings where from an area well frequented by Regents over the preceding months. Silent (no calling) and apparently solo (no other Regents) it was last recorded on New Year's Day. Despite the absence of any obvious eucalypt flowering in the area it was 'happily' feeding on insects (and possibly lerp).

Radio Tracking from the air

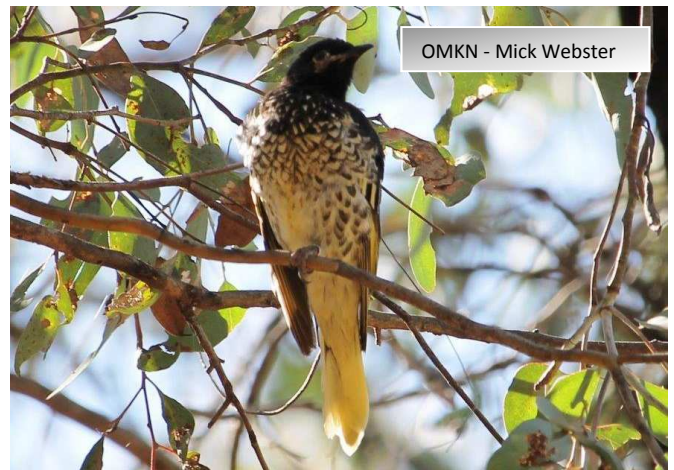
Just prior to the transmitter battery fail we undertook a trial to test the effectiveness of plane

based radio tracking. Signals were detected up to 5km from the air. As average ground-based tracking range is around 0.5-1km, the trial demonstrates some potential value of plane based tracking especially in hard to access remote country.



Spot a Regent in the meantime?

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.



OMKN - Mick Webster

Please contact us if you have any queries

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