

Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #25 7 March 2018

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group)
Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project - Update #25 (Week 48 post release)

Gippsland Getaway (part 2)

Last update (#24) we reported on Stratford resident Kim Jacob's eagle eye and camera recording the second confirmed evidence of an ex release Regent 'crossing the Alps' (or perhaps going the long route) to Gippsland. Almost two months on from the original sighting, 'Blue White' is still periodically being observed in Kim's garden. However, Kim's automatic camera (trap), deliberately deployed to help monitor the Regent, recently revealed she's not alone!



Kim's amazing photo (above) shows not one but two of our ex 2017 release Regents sipping from her garden bird bath - located over 200km away and almost 11 months post their Chiltern, NE Vic. release. Interestingly Orange Metal 'Blue Orange' is another female Regent! Blue Orange had last been observed in Chiltern on the 20 August i.e. it disappeared relatively early compared to many other birds monitored into and beyond Oct. 2017.

Meanwhile back in the North East (part 2)

In more exciting news our first 'back to Chiltern 2018 Regent sighting' was recorded by Simon Bennett last week. In circumstances like Kim's, Orange Metal 'Orange Green' was observed drinking

from Simon's garden bird bath. Last recorded in Chiltern in early November 2017, Simon reported that this male is still wearing an old transmitter (fitted in late Aug. 2017). Harnesses are designed with a weak point to enable the transmitter to drop off the bird. Accordingly, while this one is taking a bit longer than usual, Simon's observation is great as it documents Orange Green's ongoing survival despite still wearing its backpack and antennae.

Flowering update

Grey Box (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*) is in full swing in NE Vic although birds and bees are generally scarce indicating there's little nectar or pollen associated with its current flowering. And unfortunately, Mugga Ironbark (*E. sideroxylon*) flowering prospects in and around Chiltern this year appear to be below average with relatively poor levels of budding currently observed.



Spot a Regent in the meantime?

Now is the time to search for returning Regents. 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

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