

Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #45 – 3 November 2023

Hi everyone,

North East Victoria Community Update #45

Our [September 2022 Update #43](#) reported the **first seven-year, post-release surviving Regent** - in Hamilton Park, west of Wangaratta in North-east Victoria.

Records Fly

Thanks to landholder Gordon Slater's recent observations, this record has now been broken - **by a different bird**. We now can report the first sighting of a captive bred Regent Honeyeater **eight (& a half) years** post release. The male Regent originally released with White Mauve Red Metal (WURM) leg bands is still alive and calling –again in Wangaratta!



WURM - a potted history

WURM was originally released in April 2015 as a very young (four & half month old) bird into Chiltern Mt Pilot National Park.

That makes it now almost 9 years old – impressive - but still shy of the record 11 years for the oldest Regent Honeyeater recorded in the wild.

WURM had two separate 12-week transmitter wearing periods and was routinely recorded in the year of release up until September 2015.



WURM's next observation was in **September 2016** still in Chiltern Mt. Pilot National Park. It was then recorded with a new cohort of Regents released into the park in **April 2017**. However, in **Dec. 2017** it was recorded on the **One Mile Creek Reserve in Wangaratta**. At that time, it was paired with a 2017 released female and they had two failed **nesting attempts**. Its last observation was in **October 2021** – again in a One Mile Creek Wangaratta location.

Gordon's recent observations are from the **Three Mile Creek Reserve**, less than 1km from the One Mile locations. This demonstrates the incredible conservation value **Wangaratta's remnant red gum creek line reserves** provide, supplemented by native plantings including flowering bottlebrush and grevillea in neighbouring urban settings.

Please report any Regent sightings to us ASAP

Keep an eye and ear open for Regents in your patch of **flowering bush** or native garden.

Remember to grab your binoculars, check for and record any leg bands present and where possible, take and forward photographs.

Glen Johnson	DEECA	0418 501 936
Mick Roderick	BirdLife Australia	1800 621 056



MONASH University



Planning & Environment



NORTH EAST CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



National Landcare Program



TARONGA CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA OFFICIAL



Energy, Environment and Climate Action