

Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #36 – May 2020

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group), Update #36 -- 3yrs + post 2017 release

Last update (#35 - all the way back in August 2019) we reported on the difficult scenario of trying to identify a pair of Regents in Chiltern with a total of two leg bands between them (each banded bird usually has four bands – two on each leg).

Photographic sleuthing of the unique 5-digit metal band number ultimately revealed the identity of a 2017 release male with a wild female partner. They went on to nest but the event we monitored was abandoned just before the incubation period.

When more leg bands go missing

Janet Chapman and Greg Hardham recently faced a similar scenario - but this time only one metal band (and no colour bands) was present on one of the two birds observed. Once again photo enlargements confirmed the metal band number. And again, the same 2017 released male was identified – once again with a wild bird. Although no longer sporting its original colour bands, Orange Metal/Green Black (OMNP) is one of 16 birds confirmed alive 12 months or more post the 2017 release and is now the first of that cohort observed three years post release.



COVID-19 watch

Parks Victoria have recently advised that Chiltern-Mt. Pilot Nat. Park has re-opened. Changes to COVID 19 guidelines now allow outdoor recreational activities such as walking, bird watching and hiking.

Groups of up to 10 people are now permitted, provided physical distancing is still practised to reduce potential virus transmission.



Regent / Swift watch

Due to earlier COVID-19 restrictions, the annual national Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot surveys usually held in the 3rd week of May were cancelled. However, given recent changes, now is a great time to check for birds in your area.

Flower patch watch

Mugga Ironbark flowering is below par and only patchy in the Chiltern section of the Park. Nevertheless, the Barnawartha Depot Rd area (near the dam) where the Regent was recently observed is one good spot worth checking. Swifties, while not specifically seen recently in the park, are in the NE Vic – so keep eyes and ears peeled (including where lerp infestations are present e.g. on Blakely's Red Gum).

Please report any Regent / Swift sightings asap:

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