

# Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #43 – 12 September 2022

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group),

## Update #43 – 5yrs+ post 2017 release

### Record sighting

In exciting news - the first seven-year post-release, surviving Regent has recently been recorded in Hamilton Park, west of Wangaratta in North-east Victoria.

This is thanks to landholder Lucas Brook's quick thinking to snap great photos of the fleeting observation - and follow-up sleuthing to confirm the birds identify.

### WORM returns

With only two of its original four leg bands present, the identification was only made possible by Lucas' sharp photos revealing the unique stamped number on its remaining metal band. This confirmed the original band combination of White Orange/Red Metal; 'WORM' had returned.



### WORM on the fly

This male was part of the cohort of 77 birds released into Chiltern Mt. Pilot National Park in **April 2015**. At the time of release, it was just over five months of age but is now seven years and nine months old.

On release, WORM was fitted with a radio transmitter. It was one of only a few birds subsequently re-captured and re-fitted with transmitters on two additional occasions - and was tracked over a six-month period.

It was next recorded on our national **August 2016** Regent survey weekend, adjacent to the Chiltern Mt Pilot NP with two other 2015 release birds and later with one wild male (for a three-week period).



In **September 2018**, it was observed for approximately one week in the Killawarra box-ironbark section of the Warby Ovens National Park, North-west of Wangaratta ([see Update #28](#)). At that time, it had lost its red leg band, but Chris Tzaros' photos confirmed its metal band unique number stamp.

WORM was not observed in the intervening **four-year period** .... until now.

Re-sightings of wild banded birds show that Regents can **live to 11 years in the wild** (longer in captivity). So, while WORM is now relatively senior - it still has several more potential seasons to breed and recruit young into the wild population.



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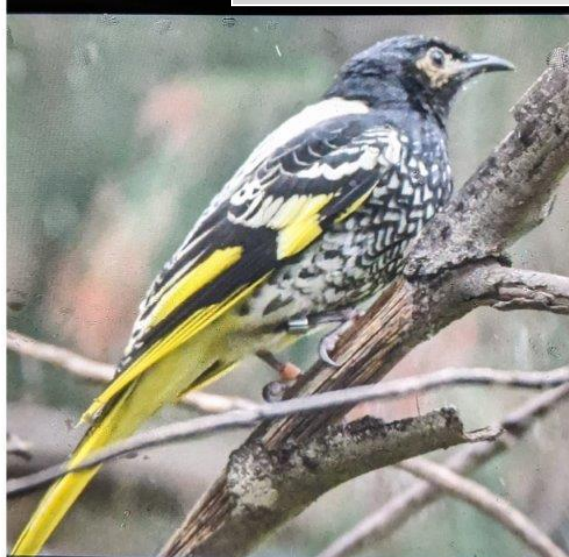


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**However**, the paucity of Regent sightings across South-east Australia this year, demonstrate this species is truly **critically endangered**. It also reiterates the importance of leg bands (even where some fall off) and the value of observations (and photography) by the public.



Compilation photos showing facial wart pattern consistency between 2022 and 2018 photos characteristic of 'WORM' (which has unusually smaller facial warting than other males)



Lucas Brooks (Hamilton Park, Aug 2022)



Chris Tzaros (Killawarra, Oct 2018)

## Please report any Regent sightings ASAP

Keep an eye and ear open for Regents in your patch of **flowering bush** e.g., White and Yellow Box is patchily flowering currently, or **native garden** e.g., flowering *Grevillea*, *Banksia*, bottlebrush, Lemon-scented and Spotted Gum etc especially those with adjoining farm dams or bird baths where Regents may dip into over the warmer spring and summer periods).

Remember to grab your binoculars, check for and record any leg bands present and where possible, take and forward photographs. **Let us know ASAP** so we can help confirm identification, check for additional bird presence and or breeding.

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