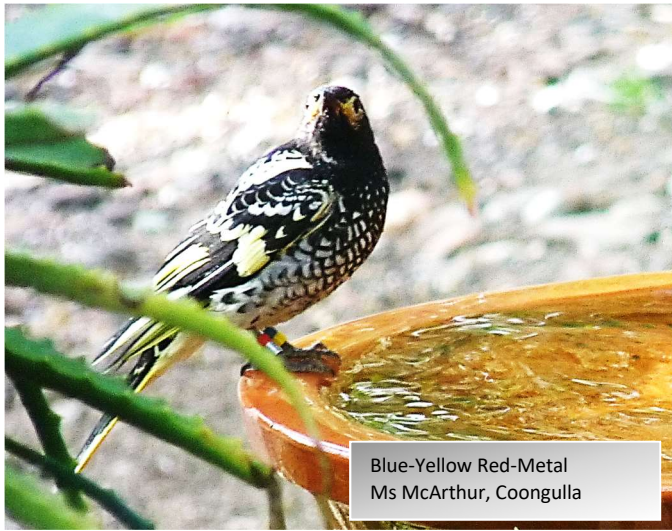


Regent Honeyeater Captive Release & Community Monitoring Project – Update #37 – June 2020

Hi everyone (Regent Honeyeater email group),
Update #37 -- 3yrs + post 2017 release

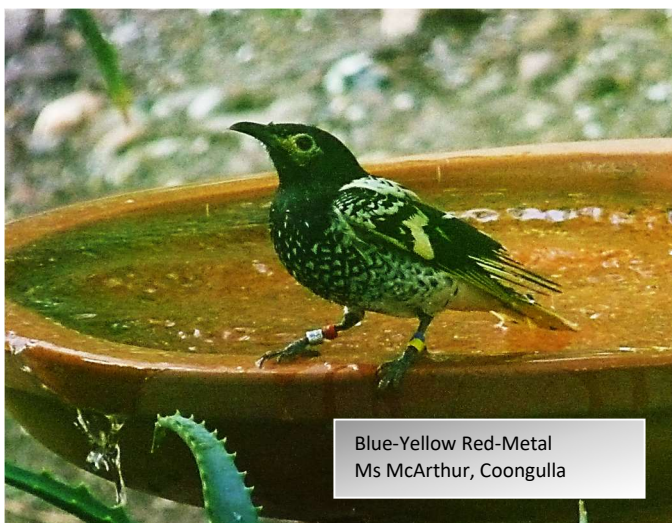
The Coongulla connection

Coongulla near Lake Glenmaggie in Gippsland is the unlikely location for the first time a captive-bred Regent Honeyeater has been sighted five years after release.



Blue-Yellow Red-Metal
Ms McArthur, Coongulla

Blue-Yellow Red-Metal (BYRM), a male released into Chiltern as part of our April 2015 program, is now seven years old. Coongulla resident Ms McArthur's decision to take photographs of the 'unknown species' paid extra dividends – with closer photo inspection revealing leg bands.



Blue-Yellow Red-Metal
Ms McArthur, Coongulla

Congulla is approximately 190km from Chiltern – but no doubt BYRM has traversed many 1000kms in its half decade journey to date. Remarkably this makes for yet another 'Chiltern - Gippsland connection' (see map at end).

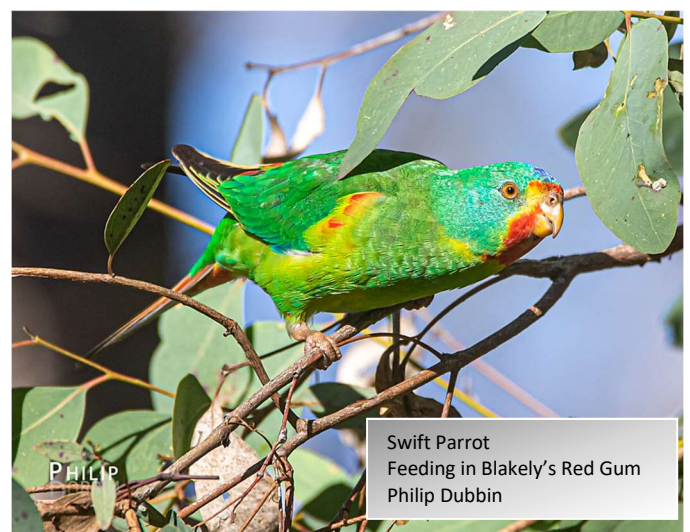
The sighting demonstrates the value of leg bands and photos aiding identification of individual birds – and the importance of community observations. This is particularly relevant given the recent release of 20 captive reared birds in NSW.

Swifts in Chiltern

Philip Dubbin's beautiful collection of photos demonstrate infrequently observed Swift feeding ecology & behaviour.



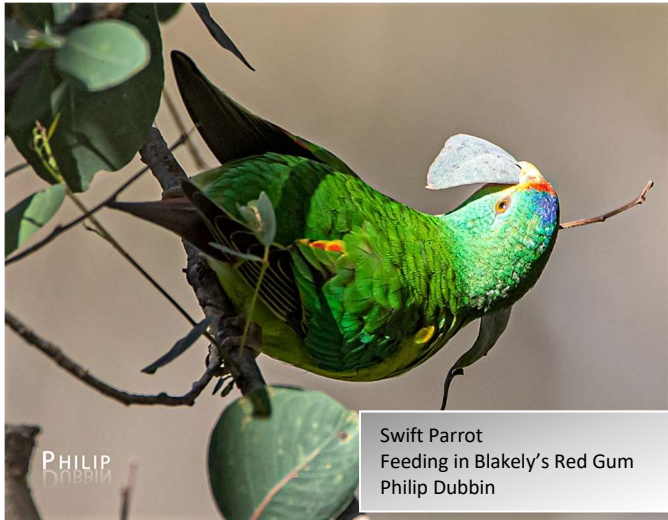
Swift Parrot
Roadside bathing
Philip Dubbin



Swift Parrot
Feeding in Blakely's Red Gum
Philip Dubbin

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While nectar is the usual carbohydrate source for Swifts, another is lerp, the sugary coating on tiny psyllid insects.

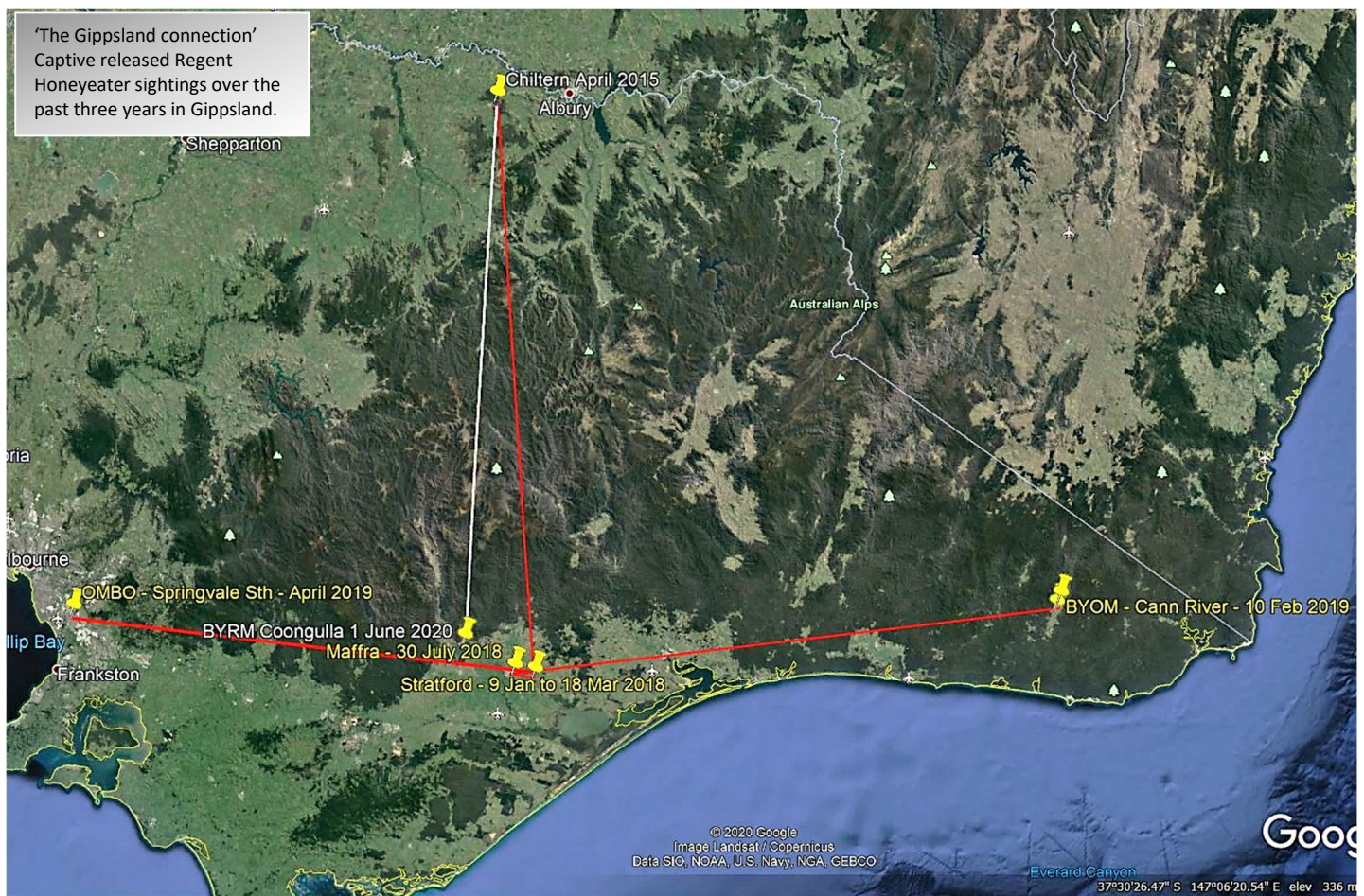


Daniel Gilmore's recent inspection revealed up to 30 Swifts present in the Valley #2 location – sustained by gleaning insects or tiny lerp from both Blakely's Red Gum on site - over two weeks without an apparent nectar diet.

Please report any Regent / Swift sightings asap:

Glen Johnson DELWP 0418 501 936

Mick Roderick BirdLife Australia 0421 761 237



MONASH University



Planning, Industry & Environment



NORTH EAST CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



National Landcare Program



TARONGA CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

birdlife AUSTRALIA

Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

State Government Victoria