

REGENT PARROT

NEWS (7)



February 2013

Cameras on nest hollows

Volunteers are spending hours watching the film from the cameras that were placed on 3 Regent Parrot nests during the breeding season. Information on the number of feeds per day at different stages of the breeding cycle, the division of labour between the parents in feeding the young and the effect of competition from (especially) Yellow Rosellas is being gleaned from the footage. The information on the data sheets from the volunteers who have been doing the "watching" is now progressively being entered into a database which will enable easier analysis of the results.

This will take quite some time yet as there are still many hours of footage to be viewed and the data recorded on the data sheets.

1800Parrot

The advertisements will continue on television until the end of this month. Although the numbers of calls received have declined in recent weeks, some are still coming in. This decline is partly due to the fact that many of the Regent Parrots have moved away from the towns and are now being reported in more distant locations eg. Gluepot to the north and Lameroo to the south of the river. People may also feel that they do not need to continue to report birds if they have been around all of the time. To check this we are telephoning a number of people who reported Regent Parrots in the breeding season to see if they are still present.

This part of the project has been extremely valuable as it has enabled us to know where the birds are at different times during the season. Over 200 reports have been received and the project (with the ads on TV) has helped raise the profile of Regent Parrots and stimulate the interest of many others in bird watching as a hobby.

Banding/tracking Regent Parrots

In recent weeks a number of the newly fledged young from the last breeding season have been captured, banded and received a health check from the veterinarians from the Adelaide Zoo. Capturing these birds in years to come will give us some idea on how long Regent Parrots live under natural conditions. Aviary bred Regent Parrots have lived in captivity for more than 20 years.

The Recovery Team has obtained 5 captive bred birds that are housed in a large aviary and these will be used to trial methods of attaching the trackers so we can resume tracking a few individuals at the start of next breeding season.

From the SA Regent Parrot Recovery Team

2012 was a big year for Regent Parrots and 2013 promises to be even bigger in terms of learning more about these unpredictable birds. None of this would have been possible without the contributions made by the following:

Local Community- over 200 people made the effort to observe and report their observations to the team.

Volunteers- In excess of 5500 km were travelled to locate, track, monitor and band Regent Parrots involving more than 250 volunteer hours. This was made possible by a grant provided by the **SA Murray Darling NRM Board** which enabled volunteers to be reimbursed for the use of their motor vehicles.

Other volunteers spent countless hours setting up, moving and monitoring cameras and viewing footage.

Adelaide Zoo Veterinarians- checked the health of the Regent Parrots captured to determine if disease was a factor in the decline of the population in SA.

DEWNR staff- spent many hours of work time and numerous more volunteer hours assisting and directing volunteers, locating Regent Parrots, mist netting, banding and providing leadership for the project.

Recovery Team Members- participated in many planning meetings and then worked tirelessly to implement the plans.

A Magnificent team effort A big thank you to everyone who contributed

During the 2013 breeding season we wish to survey a number of known nest sites. More on this in the next RP News.