

# REGENT PARROT

## NEWS (5)



July 2012

### Cameras on nest hollows

After experiencing a great deal of frustration in attempting to set up motion activated cameras on nest hollows, a new approach is being adopted for this year's breeding season. Cameras will be arranged to "watch" nest hollows for all daylight hours during the breeding season. Trials in the field by Darren (with assistance from his parents) have proven to be very successful. This will mean that there will be many many hours of viewing required to look at all of the footage and extract the useful information. Viewers will have a programme provided that enables the film to be viewed at a much faster rate and to skip the hours of no action at the nest hollow. The film can then be slowed for viewing the "event" and recording what is happening at the hollow entrance.

**If you would like to assist with this task of viewing film, please telephone DENR (8595 2111) to register your name and we will provide more details and training later in the season when we have some footage to be viewed.**

### 1800Parrot

From the beginning of August advertisements will appear on local television stations requesting people to report sightings of Regent Parrots.

These ads will be 15 sec. long and feature our "signature call number" **1800Parrot**.

If we are to gain a true understanding of the way Regent Parrots use the landscape so that we can work out the best way to proceed with our attempts to secure their future, we need to know where they are at different times of the year. This task is impossible for our small group to do on its own.

Even before we begin this push to receive more sightings, we have been fortunate to receive information from farmers and bird watchers on where Regents have been seen in recent weeks. We have followed up these sightings with some interesting findings emerging from the field visits.

We hope to get a number of sightings, particularly from outside of the known nest sites, and we will make site visits for as many of these reports as we can manage.

We have a number of items (car stickers, fridge magnets, books etc.) to distribute to those who make reports to further promote this project.

### Banding/tracking Regent Parrots

We have divided our team into 2 projects. One will work on the "camera on nest hollows" whilst the other team will attempt to band some Regent Parrots and attach radio tracking devices to a small number of these. This latter project will provide more detailed information on how the birds move around the landscape, identify important feeding and roosting locations and provide information on survival rates, longevity in the wild and DNA information from feathers collected.

This project will require the assistance of a number of people during the breeding season to locate the birds with the trackers attached to them. It promises to be an exciting job, so if you are able to assist for a time, please register your interest (8595 2111 – DENR office) and a member of the team will contact you to make arrangements.

### From the SA Regent Parrot Recovery Team

A big thank you to Liz Frankel for donating a number of her books "What do you Think?" We will use these as part of our promotions. The book is written for children and features Regent Parrots in highlighting the plight of the River Murray. You may have seen the accolades and awards that Liz and Gary Duncan have received recently for their book for children "Hairy Nose, Itchy Butt" This book highlights environmental issues and is a must read for all young kids.

**If you can spare time to assist with either viewing nest site camera footage or to assist with tracking birds in the field register your interest by telephoning DENR (8595 2111)**

Kevin Smith