

REGENT PARROT

NEWS (8)



May 2013

2013 Regent Parrot Nest Survey

During the coming breeding season the Recovery Team plans to visit 10 previously monitored Regent Parrot nest sites to record the number of nests at each site. These 10 selected nest sites have been surveyed a number of times since 2003/4 breeding season. By comparing the results of this year's survey with those conducted at the same sites in previous breeding seasons we can see if there is any change in the numbers of nests over time. This small sample of the total number of nest colonies along the river corridor will give us a guide as to how the population is doing. Searching the whole river corridor to map all Regent Parrot nests is a mammoth task which we hope to conduct again in 2016.

This year for the first time we will have Palm Pilots (electronic recording devices) to make recording and subsequent entry of the data into a data base much easier.

Nest Camera Project

Volunteers have almost completed viewing all of the footage from the nest cameras from last year's breeding season. This project was successful in recording competition for nest hollows (by Yellow Rosellas), predation of a chick from a nest by a Lace Monitor and the failure of one of the three Regent Parrot nests being filmed to fledge any young at all. It also provided concrete proof of the continual harassment of some nesting Regent Parrots by Yellow Rosellas. This behaviour had been reported by volunteers monitoring nests in previous years, but the cameras gave us some idea of just how vicious and prolonged this harassment can be.

The cameras will again be used to watch Regent Parrot nest hollows during the coming breeding season. If you did not have the opportunity to contribute to the viewing from last year, we would appreciate your assistance with this year's if you can spare a few hours. We would like to commence viewing immediately following the end of the breeding season (mid November). You can register your intention to assist by responding to this email.

On behalf of the Recovery Team I wish to sincerely thank the volunteers who spent countless hours viewing the nest camera footage from last season.

Tracking Regent Parrots

Trials on the five captive bred Regent Parrots have been continuing in the aviary. The harness used in the tracking trials from 2012 has been modified and it seems significant progress has been made towards being able to track the birds for all of the breeding season and beyond using the newly designed harness. The plan for this season is to place gps trackers on a number of birds to gather information on movements, food sources, flight paths and roost sites during the breeding months. At the end of the breeding season we would like to place satellite trackers on some birds to track their movements over the wider landscape as they move away from the river corridor.

1800 Parrot

Whilst funding for our TV ads has been expended, the 1800Parrot hotline is still operating. You can report any Regent Parrots you observe to this number or by calling DEWNR (8595 2111)