

# **REGENT PARROT**

## **NEWS (6)**



### November 2012

#### **Cameras on nest hollows**

Three of the four hollows that the nest cameras were placed on were used by Regent Parrots. The Regent Parrots that attempted to use the fourth hollow were “discouraged “ to do so by a pair of Yellow Rosellas who decided they would like that hollow.

The footage from the nest cameras is now being transferred to discs for distribution to volunteers who will view the film and record any action at the nest hollow on a data sheet that has been designed to make recording simple. Some interesting information about Regent Parrot behaviour has already emerged from the footage that volunteer “film watcher” Raelene Schmitke has viewed.

There is a great deal more footage to watch. If you are looking for something to do on hot summer days when you are confined to the indoors, please let us know. We will arrange to install the programme on your computer (needed to view the film) and provide you with some discs. If you can assist please call the Regent Parrot “hotline” **1800 Parrot**

#### **1800Parrot**

The 15 sec. long ads that have been shown on local TV channels over the past 3 months have had a significant impact on the number of sightings of Regent Parrots being reported. The after hours calls have exceeded the 100 mark and office hour reports have also been excellent.

Many of the sightings have been followed up with site visits and/or return telephone calls. Many people have also been provided with more information about Regent Parrots.

The field visits have provided information on food, movement and behaviour of the birds at different times in the breeding season. The information has also been vital to enabling the Recovery Team to capture many Regent Parrots for research purposes (see below).

The Recovery Team has decided to continue the TV advertisements for another 3 months to find out more about the behaviour and movement of the “social” flocks of parent and juvenile birds immediately following breeding.

#### **Banding/tracking Regent Parrots**

Three Regent Parrots had radio tracking devices attached to them using a harness that had been trialed by a person studying Regent Parrots in Victoria. Unfortunately these only remained attached to the birds for less than 3 weeks. Some data was obtained by tracking the birds for this short time. The team is now investigating other ways of attaching the radio transmitters to the birds that will remain on them for much longer.

Twenty-six birds were trapped and banded and 23 of these were inspected by veterinarians from the Adelaide Zoo. The health of the birds was checked and blood samples taken to check further for the presence of disease and for DNA testing. Three of the birds were found to have foot lesions. These were removed under anaesthetics and are being tested to determine what causes this problem. The birds previously captured in Victoria had a much higher prevalence of these nasty looking growths.

#### **From the SA Regent Parrot Recovery Team**

The combination of TV advertisements, the 1800 Parrot hotline and newspaper articles has greatly raised the profile of the Regent Parrot in the Riverland region. With the “social flocks” consisting of parents and young now moving about the horticulture area searching for food resources, more sightings are likely to be received. This period is also one where conflict with fruit growers is likely to be more common. Let us hope the greater awareness will also result in Regent Parrots being more appreciated and therefore not receiving the wrong sort of attention at this time.

**If you can spare time to assist with viewing nest site camera footage please register your interest by telephoning DENR (8595 2111) or the Regent Parrot “Hotline” (1800Parrot)**

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2013 from the “Team”.

Kevin Smith