

Regent parrot nest surveys in SA

Searches for Regent Parrot nesting sites in SA were conducted in 1985, 1986 and 1989 resulting in estimates of the number of nests in this state ranging from 25 to 93. These searches involved locating nest sites and estimating the number of nests at that site based on the number of birds seen at the site.

An attempt to locate and record details of each individual Regent Parrot nest was conducted by Smith in the 1991 breeding season (Smith 1992). This resulted in 175 nests being documented along the river corridor from the NSW/SA border downstream to Lock 3 near Kingston –on –Murray.

Some of the breeding sites from 1991 were visited in 2000 and details of the trees and hollows being used by Regent Parrots was recorded (Smith 2001)

The location of nest trees was recorded using approx. grid references from a topographic map as gps technology was not in use at the time.

Over the 2003 and 2004 breeding seasons Smith surveyed the river, creeks and backwaters from the border downstream to Walkers Flat. From this survey it was estimated that the total breeding population of Regent Parrots in SA comprises about 400 breeding pairs.

Because of the huge commitment required to repeat these whole of river surveys to monitor Regent Parrot numbers, it was decided that 10 colonies be selected and these should then be surveyed every second year in order to monitor changes in the overall population of breeding pairs in this state.

The 10 selected nest sites were surveyed in 2006 (Smith 2006), 2008 (DEH), 2010 (Smith 2011) and 2013 (Smith 2014)

In 2015 a survey of a section (Reach) of the breeding range of Regent Parrots in SA was attempted. This survey was conducted by a group of volunteers and covered a section of the river corridor from the border downstream to Heading's Cliff, a distance of approx. 35 Km.

In 2017 a "Reach" survey of the area from Lock 2 downstream to Markaranka Flat was conducted.

The results of these surveys are summarised in the following two tables.

The precise location of all Regent Parrot nest trees and a description of the tree and the nest hollows are attached for all surveys from 2003/4 to 2015.

For each survey a report was produced and these are attached.

Regent Parrot "whole of river" surveys South Australia

Sect.	Location	Dist.	2003/2004			2010/11		
			Colonies	Trees	Nests	Colonies	Trees	Nests
A	Border - Chowilla HS	33	4	27	34	3	20	22
B	Chowilla HS - Renmark	36	3	8	9	1	4	4
C	Renmark - Lyrup	27	1	2	2	0	0	0
D	Lyrup - Lock 4	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
E	Lock 4 - Pyap Lagoon	41	4	12	12	5	27	29
F	Pyap Lagoon - Cobdogla	23	1	3	3	2	2	2
G	Cobdogla - Lock 3	11	12	50	53	9	28	34
H	Lock 3 - Banrock Creek	7	3	53	54	4	41	42
J	Banrock Creek - Waikerie	36	4	22	22	5	28	30
K	Waikerie - Cadell	45	7	65	76	5	90	119
L	Cadell - Pelican Point	26	4	34	37	3	25	28
M	Pelican Point - Blanchtown	32	3	28	32	4	25	42
N	Blanchtown - Swan Reach	28	5	12	12	0	0	0
Total		365	51	316	346	41	290	352
	Time (hours)		738			1115		

Table 7: Regent Parrot nest numbers in 10 selected colonies 2003 – 2013.

Colony Name	2003/2004		2006		2008		2010		2013	
	trees	nests	trees	nests	trees	nests	trees	nests	trees	nests
Nil Nil	16	20	7	9	4	4	0	0	1	1
Lock 6	9	12	6	6	6	6	8	8	14	16
Gal Gal	7	8	5	5	3	3	4	4	1	1
Wachtels Lagoon	12	12	14	14	10	11	1	1	1	1
Kingston Backwater	13	14	12	12	9	10	3	3	3	4
Banrock Bend	36	37	36	38	22	25	21	22	14	14
Island Reach	12	12	9	9	5	6	7	7	6	7
Hogwash	22	29	33	39	42	53	38	47	42	48
Morgan CP	14	15	15	17	14	19	13	13	4	5
Murbko Flat	15	16	15	15	17	18	0(?)	0(?)	13	13
Totals	156	175	152	165	132	155	95	105	99	110