



Going Beyond the Institution:

Taronga Zoo Bird Department Involvement in
Conservation Programs

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CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA™



Taronga Zoo Bird Department Conservation Program Involvement



- Regent Honeyeater
Recovery Program

- Lord Howe Island
Rodent Eradication Program





Regent Honeyeater

Anthochaera (Anthochaera) phrygia



- Only species within *Anthochaera* subgenus
- Habitat: Box-ironbark eucalypt woodlands of southeast Australia
- Nomadic species which aggregate in only 4 known breeding sites

• Population drastically declined from estimated 1000 (1992) to >500 (current)

• IUCN Listing

- Endangered 1992
- Critically endangered 2012



Regent Honeyeater Recovery Program Overview

- Originally established 1992 at state level after IUCN Endangered classification
- Recovery team established to drive the program work encompassing all aspects of the recovery including captive management, habitat restoration, and education.
- Captive management and breed/release component incorporated later involving several institutions, lead by Taronga Zoo



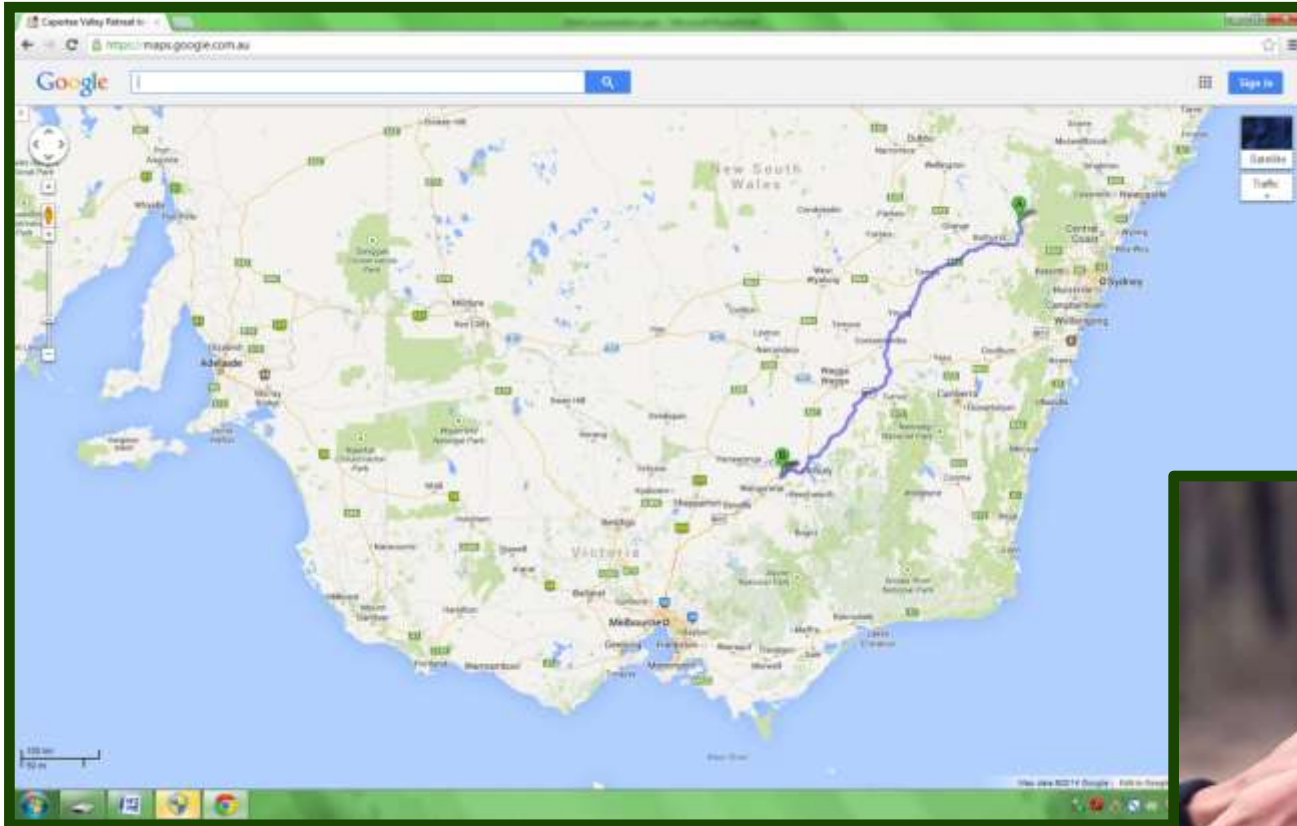
Department of



CARING
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COUNTRY



Capertee Valley and Chiltern National Park



Work at Taronga Zoo

-Husbandry advances

- Successfully bred wild caught, F1, and F2 generations
- 255 chicks bred at Taronga (72%)
- 98 of 117 released from Taronga

-Vocalization integrity

-Telemetry harness trials



Breed and Release Milestones

2008 – 27 birds released

- Breeding attempts observed

2010 – 43 birds released

- Captive bred female paired with wild male
- Multiple nesting sites,1 successful breeding
- At least 26% survivability over 12mo post release

2013 – 38 birds released

- 9 birds from 2010 release spotted
- Captive bred individual paired up and flying over 50km (30mi) to establishing new territory on private property
- Several captive bred birds breeding with wild counterparts

2015, 2017 – releases confirmed



Education and Habitat Restoration



Lord Howe Island



• Heard Island

Macquarie Island

Rodent Eradication Plan Trial

- Extinction of 5 bird species (4 direct, 1 indirect) as well as elimination of wild population of endemic phasmids on the mainland
- \$9 mil(Aus) plan funded by Australian government for rodent eradication
- 2 endemic bird species identified to hold in captivity for 100 days
 - 20 woodhens
 - 10 currawong



Obstacles to Overcome

Limited resources

Delay and quality of supplies

Resistance from residents



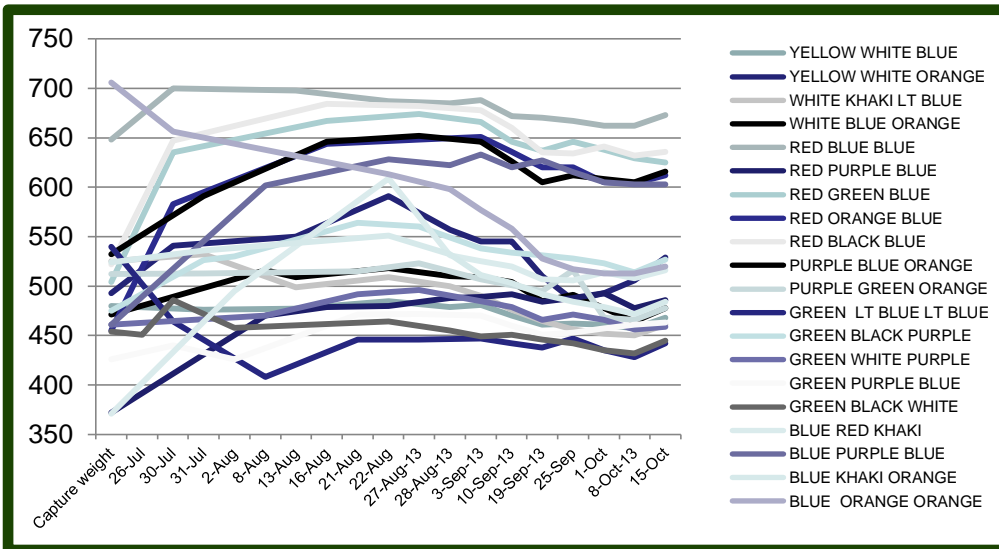
Obstacles to Overcome

Woodhens

Territory establishment and prohibiting breeding

Enclosure size variation

Weight management



Obstacles to Overcome

Currawong

Aviary construction

Adjusting to captive diet

Veterinary and medication administration

Development of stereotypical behaviors



Future

All birds released

Eradication program slated for 2017

- Currawong (50.50)
- Woodhen population (250-300)





Acknowledgements

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Taronga Zoo Bird Department

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