**Round 2 update / Farewell to Swifties**

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| To | | | [Woodland Birds](mailto:woodlandbirds@birdlife.org.au) |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Date | Today 15:30 |   **Message Body**  To protect your privacy remote resources have been blocked. [Allow](https://cp-qh02.syd02.ds.network:2096/cpsess6364605986/3rdparty/roundcube/?_task=mail&_caps=pdf%3D1%2Cflash%3D0%2Ctiff%3D0%2Cwebp%3D1&_uid=4356&_mbox=INBOX&_action=show#loadremote)  Hi Woodland Birders,    Since our last email went out to you all on Wednesday 4th August, the Covid-19 situation across much of south-eastern mainland Australia continued to deteriorate, with lockdowns and outbreaks of varying intensity still on-going across much of the Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater range.  However, it hasn’t been a complete write-off, and we’re pleased to be able to share this interim update with you.    Swift Parrot update    Despite the Covid-19 setbacks, we continued to receive consistent Swift Parrot sightings from across much of the species’ range in Round 2 (July 17 – Aug 29) - albeit seemingly more so from urban areas since August 4 – with sightings occurring in Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT. Victoria continued to be the source of a significant portion of sightings, with more than 80% of total sightings emanating from locations across the state. In contrast, Swift Parrots have not been reported in QLD since early July. In this time we also continued to see reports of Swift Parrots in reasonably sized flocks at several locations across Victoria and NSW including **(VIC);** Bundoora, Bailieston, Sunbury, Springvale Botanical Cemetery, St Arnaud, Lysterfield Park and **(NSW);** Doonside. Although falling outside the Round 2 survey period, we also saw a spike in flock size seen in Kambah, ACT with 35 birds reported on August 30. Many of these locations continue to be a source of records in recent weeks.    Swift Parrots have also begun arriving back in Tasmania in preparation for the upcoming breeding season, signalling the ‘tapering-off’ of the mainland season which will gradually come to a close over the next few weeks. Although our biannual survey periods have concluded for the year, we still encourage you all to keep an eye/ear out for Swifties and see them off on their journey south to the breeding grounds in Tassie – and to of course report your sightings through to us via our Birdata [**portal**](https://birdata.birdlife.org.au/record-survey)**,** or via email ([woodlandbirds@birdlife.org.au](mailto:woodlandbirds@birdlife.org.au)). Where Covid-19 restrictions allow, we also encourage those that are interested to complete ‘*Swift Parrot Search’* surveys at fixed locations near you, which will provide us with important information in regards to food availability and Swift Parrot distribution during this latter part of the season.    In the coming weeks, we will be working to bring you all our final report detailing key updates on both Swift Parrots and Regent Honeyeaters from surveys and sightings in 2021. We will also endeavour to meet one-on-one with each of our regional coordinators to reflect on the first year of *Swift Parrot Search* and receive feedback on how we can better support them and our volunteers in 2022. Regional summary reports providing insights into *Swift Parrot Search* survey progress across 2021 are also expected to be distributed to each of our regional coordinators by year’s end, with these reports to be made available via our website soon afterwards.    Our advice on where and when our *Swift Parrot Search* surveys can be undertaken by our volunteer birdwatchers remains unchanged, and we strongly encourage participants everywhere to closely monitor local updates and the latest government health advice, and to adhere to all COVID-Safe restrictions and health measures relevant to their location. Only proceed with the surveys if these activities are permitted in your location at the time, and can be undertaken in accordance with the restrictions and measures put in place.    We continue to provide supporting resources for *Swift Parrot Search* volunteers such as volunteer guides, geo-referenced maps and kmz/kml. files, with a number of new additions made available for download online [**here**](https://birdlife.org.au/swift-parrot) via the menu section *found on the left-hand side of your screen* (see lists below for further details).     * The following volunteer guides (PDF) are now available for: **(VIC)** – Anakie, Blackburn, Castlemaine, Dookie, Dunolly, Kingower, Macleod, Morrl Morrl, Northcote, Ocean Grove, Truganina and Yarra Bend Park; ([**click here**](https://birdlife.org.au/swift-parrot)).      * New Geo-referenced maps for sites are also now available for download ([click here](https://birdlife.org.au/swift-parrot)). **(VIC)** Ararat, Barrabool, Benalla-Reef Hills, Braeside, Byrntirion, Courtney Springs, Dookie, Euroa,  Lysterfield, Maldon, Monash Uni Clayton, Sunbury, Talbot, Waverley, Western Treatment Plant, West Wail NCR and Wildwood **(NSW)** Back Yamma, Barraga Bay, Bermagui, Cumbijowa, Merimbula, North-east Mogo, Pambula, Wallagoot, West Mogo   Big thanks again – to regional coordinators and volunteers alike - for all of your invaluable contributions so far this year. Without your efforts, the implementation of the *Swift Parrot Search* program would simply not be possible.    As always, Chris and I are available to answer any specific or tricky questions. There is extensive support information (including a Frequently Asked Questions document) on the website ([click here](https://birdlife.org.au/swift-parrot)); and we are also seeking opportunities to run webinar training sessions on the revised approach for interested groups (or possibly even on-the-ground training, when Covid-19 restrictions allow).    Regent Honeyeater update    Although it continued to be a very quiet (and somewhat worrying) winter for Regent Honeyeaters, it has been a very promising start to the 2021 breeding season. At the time of writing the collaborative monitoring effort by the BirdLife Australia Woodland Birds Team and Australian National University researchers has resulted in up to ten nests being found, some of which have already fledged young. The majority of these nests are in the Upper Hunter region, mostly in the vicinity of Goulburn River National Park. Another nest is active in the Barraba area and there has been one nest thus far in the Capertee Valley, which unfortunately failed. There have also been three pairs of Regent Honeyeaters found in the Lower Hunter region, though none of these birds are breeding as yet. Meanwhile there have been reports of up to five Regent Honeyeaters in Victoria, including a pair comprised of a male bird that successfully raised three chicks at Chiltern last year with the leg band combination ‘Orange-Metal/Pink-Pink’. Let’s hope he achieves this again!    Birds have been feeding on a variety of blossom sources, but mostly Mugga and Caley’s Ironbark, as well as Yellow Box, White Box and Needleleaf Mistletoe. With a bumper spring-summer expected for Eucalypt blossom across the Regent Honeyeater range, we are hopeful that the 2021 season will be the best breeding season for several years (since 2017 at least).    Please feel free to get in touch with us to discuss any queries.    Regards, Beau & the Woodland Birds Team.     |  |  | | --- | --- | | Beau Meney | Woodland Birds Project Officer B Sc. (Hons)  BirdLife Australia Suite 2-05, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053 M 0411 055 563 | T 03 9347 0757 | F 03 9347 9323 [beau.meney@birdlife.org.au](mailto:beau.meney@birdlife.org.au) | [birdlife.org.au](http://birdlife.org.au/) ABN 75 149 124 774 |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |        |  | | --- | |  | | .                    . |   BirdLife Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Country on which we live and work, and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We recognise and are grateful for the immense contribution of Indigenous people to the knowledge and conservation of Australia's birds. | | |  |