

THE BOWER BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA

Family Ptilonorhynchidae

Continued from the August edition

#4 REGENT BOWERBIRD

Sericulus chrysocephalus



Photo: "Myobatrachidae"

The Regent Bowerbird is sexually dimorphic. The male is black with a golden orange-yellow crown, mantle and black-tipped wing feathers. He has a yellow bill, black feet and yellow iris. The female is brown with whitish or fawn markings, a grey bill, black feet and crown.

All male bowerbirds build bowers, which range from simple ground clearings to elaborate structures, with which to attract a mate. Regent Bowerbirds are known for mixing a muddy greyish-blue or pea-

green "saliva paint" which they use to decorate their avenue-type bower which consists of two walls of sticks, decorated with shells, seeds, leaves and berries. They will sometimes use wads of greenish leaves as "paintbrushes" to help spread this "paint". This is one of the few known instances of tool use by a bird species.



Photo: Glen Fergus



George
Prince of Wales
Prince Regent

Endemic to Australia, this medium-sized (up to 25cm in length)

Bowerbird inhabits rainforests and their margins in eastern Australia, from central Queensland to New South Wales.

Their diet consists of fruits, berries and insects.

Their name commemorates the Prince Regent of the United Kingdom, later George IV.

A common species throughout its range, the Regent Bowerbird is evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



PAIR AT BOWER

Photo from "Birds of Lamington National Park"

Series to be continued