

CONSERVATION CORNER

Glossy Black Cockatoo Recovery Update

Nest Season news 2001

This year Lynn Pedler, Trish Mooney and volunteers have discovered over 66 nest attempts, with at least 31 successful nests. Especially good news is that at least 15 of these young glossies are female, a better result than most previous years.

For reasons unknown, male glossies outnumber females in the adult population by around two to one. So female fledglings are particularly important if the population is to increase and become secure in the long term.

Six new nest trees have been discovered this year with four successfully fledging young. Several late nests have been found with eggs laid after mid-July, later than any previously recorded nesting.

Lynn has now banded 28 nestlings. Eight banded Glossy Black-Cockatoo females have bred this year, ranging in age from two to five years old.

Nest failures still a mystery

Re-laying after initial failure has occurred in at least 15 nest hollows. As in other seasons, the cause of nest failure has often been difficult to determine but includes failure of about 10 apparently infertile eggs and flooding of two nest hollows. Broken eggshells, hatched shells with no nestling and dented eggs suggest interference from other birds. No evidence of possum predation has been found this season.

Glossies on the move

Over 70 band observations have confirmed movements of individual marked glossies from one part of Kangaroo Island to another. Of particular note, an adult male fledged at Western River in 1996 and last seen near its nesting area 1997 was identified at American River in June 2001. This is one of the longest recorded movements to date.

Lynn has also identified 14 of 32 birds banded as nestlings in 1998. The survival of around half of the 1998 fledglings to three years of age is heartening news for the glossies' future.

Taken from “Chewings”; the Newsletter of the Glossy Black Cockatoo Recovery Project.

Take a look at the glossy web site at:

www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/glossy'black.html

“Chewings” is on the net at <http://dove.net.au/~rwoolly/>