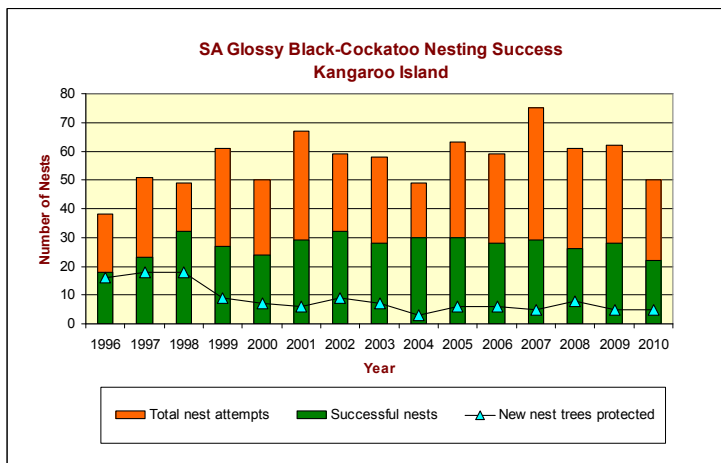


'Chewings'

SA GLOSSY BLACK-COCKATOO RECOVERY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER No. 30 - June 2011

2010 Nesting Season

Last year Lynn Pedler, Mike Barth and numerous volunteers recorded 50 nest attempts in 48 nest hollows between January and August 2010 resulting in 22 known fledglings. Seventeen of these were banded as nestlings and 12 came from artificial hollows. Identification of nesting adults through leg band re-sightings revealed 8 males aged between 4 and 15 years old and 18 females ranging from 3 to 14 years old. A lack of project funding after June resulted in reduced observations of nests and a few nestlings going unbanded in July and August.



2010 Annual Census Results

The 2010 annual census took place in October last year. A minimum of 262 Glossies were observed during the census period resulting in an estimated population of 310+ birds on Kangaroo Island. Thirty juveniles (fledged in 2010) were observed amongst the flocks (see photos on opposite side).

Census results from 2009/2010 are down from the 2007/2008 counts when up to 333 birds were observed on Kangaroo Island. However, there is no evidence of mass mortalities and the number of nesting pairs has remained stable. It's unlikely there has been a population decline and observations indicate smaller non-breeding flocks scattered over a wider area, making them more difficult to detect during the census period. This highlights the importance of the annual census as a tool for monitoring population changes. Perhaps the 2011 census will shed some new light on the status of the current population.

A big thanks goes out to: Nature Foundation SA for providing the research grant that funded the 2010 census; Trish Mooney for assisting with the census, coordinating volunteers and co-authoring the census report; and to the 26 volunteers who contributed 111 hours of their time over the census period.



Juvenile female at Harriet River during census 2010.



Adult female (left) with juvenile male at Western River during census 2010.

2011 Nesting Season in Full Swing

66 nest attempts in 55 nest hollows have been recorded up to mid-June and 18 nestlings have been banded to date. Several pairs are on second attempts after failing to hatch their first egg of the season and more nestlings are expected in the coming weeks. Five new nest trees have been located and protected from possum predation with



Adult female looks out from new nest "Slab".



A new nest tree somewhere on the north coast.....

corrugated iron collars and three of these are in areas where there are no previous nesting records. With so many late nests, monitoring will continue through September. If you'd like to assist please let Mike know.

\$\$ Funding Update \$\$

The GBC Recovery Program has received funding from a range of sources over the years including government, private and corporate entities.

There has been a switch in recent years from Commonwealth to State funding and there have been significant periods of funding gaps over the last two years. The project is currently funded by the SA State NRM through the KI NRM Board with DENR as the delivery agent and has recently been secured through June 2012.

The **Glossy Black Rescue Fund** was established in the mid 1990's as a way for individuals or organisations to donate money to the GBC Recovery Program. It has traditionally been used for habitat restoration activities and has contributed to construction and installation of artificial nest hollows.

Birds Australia - Southern NSW/ACT chapter (BASNA) recently donated \$12,000 to the Glossy Black Rescue Fund from monies raised in their 2010 Annual Twitchathon. Thank you BASNA and to all those twitchers that participated in the event!!!

Volunteer Spotlight

Wally Meakins

• What brought you to KI?

We bought land on the coast at Stokes Bay in 1990, built a house in '92 and started farming sheep. We used to sail to KI for holidays and loved the sea, coast and the natural environment.

• **How long have you been volunteering?** *My involvement with the GBC project started with encouragement by Stephen Garnett when he lived here and did research work for the project. That was about 1997 and my interest has been ongoing.*

• **Have you gained any skills volunteering?** *Stephen organized a climbing course with the State Emergency Services, which I enjoyed and I help with nest maintenance work, treatment of bees, protection from possum attacks, and erection of artificial nests where needed.*

Upcoming Events

July 8th - 10th - Kangaroo Island Planting Festival -

Come join the KI Threatened Plants team at Cygnet Park to help plant over 100,000 seedlings of over 100 species including many rare and endangered plants and several thousand Drooping Sheoaks for the Glossies. For info: e-mail heinrich.klein@sa.gov.au

July 26th - Aug 28th - Fine Art Kangaroo Island is hosting a SALA Festival 2011 art exhibition featuring the KI Glossy Black-Cockatoo at the National Wine Centre in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens with the official opening on 31 July at 2pm. Details can be found at: www.fineartkangarooisland.com.au



Previous editions of **Chewings** can be found at: <http://users.adam.com.au/kic01/glossy/archive.html>

For more info about the SA Glossy Black-Cockatoo Recovery Program or to volunteer, please contact:

DENR — Kangaroo Island: ph: (08) 8553 4444
or e-mail: michael.barth@sa.gov.au

Donations can be made to:

Glossy Black Rescue Fund - c/o Nature Foundation SA
PO Box 448, Hindmarsh, South Australia 5007

The SA Glossy Black-Cockatoo Recovery Program is managed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and funded by the SA State NRM through the KI NRM Board. Recent sponsors include Nature Foundation SA and Birds Australia Southern NSW/ACT chapter (BASNA).

