

MEDIA RELEASE

22 October 2010

The Nature Conservation Trust of NSW celebrates National Bird Day – 29th October 2010

Regent honeyeaters in the New England Tablelands will be singing a bit louder this National Bird Day thanks to the Nature Conservation Trust's work to protect a 1,957 hectare private property at Barraba.

Nature Conservation Trust, Regional Manager, Kate Smillie, said that the Barraba property is a haven for native wildlife.

"The Barraba property has over 130 species of birds, including the endangered regent honeyeater and six other birds threatened with extinction" said Ms Smillie. "The protection of the property with a conservation agreement will go a long way to ensuring these birds survive into the future."

The Nature Conservation Trust has now permanently protected regent honeyeater habitat on six private properties in both of the only two known breeding regions for the bird in NSW.

"The Bundarra-Barraba region in the New England Tablelands, Capertee Valley west of Sydney and north-east Victoria are the only three known core breeding regions of the regent honeyeater remaining in Australia," said Ms Smillie. "The bird is a 'flagship species' for conservation in the threatened woodland forests of NSW and Victoria, and saving its habitat will benefit many other endangered birds and animals that rely on woodlands for survival."

Nature Conservation Trust CEO, Paul Toni, said that National Bird Day is an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of private land conservation to the survival of Australia's rare and threatened birds.

"Working with landholders who have chosen to permanently protect their land through a conservation agreement is inspiring," said Mr Toni. "We have partnered with landholders to protect over 21,500 hectares of land across 49 properties in NSW, ensuring that the amazing natural assets of these properties, including habitat for at least 40 threatened bird species, are protected forever."

Threatened species are animals and plants that are in danger of becoming extinct. There are a number of categories of threatened species, with endangered species being those at very high risk of extinction in the near future. The regent honeyeater falls into this category.

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water lists 124 bird species as threatened in NSW, while nationally there are 23 bird species listed as extinct, six as critically endangered and another 103 as either endangered or vulnerable. National Bird Day is a reminder that unless we protect the habitat that these species need to survive, these alarming statistics may increase.

For more information about the Nature Conservation Trust, visit www.nct.org.au.

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PHOTOS ATTACHED: The Nature Conservation Trust has protected vital habitat for the endangered regent honeyeater on a 1,957 hectare property at Barraba.

NB. A photo of a regent honeyeater is also available on request.