

How can we get Malleefowl back on the map?

When did you last see a Malleefowl? Maybe it was out the back paddock grazing through your crop stubble before Christmas, or you remember Dad telling you about them being near the house when you were growing up living in the mallee, or perhaps you have mounds you visit each year in your scrub to check on progress of birds in your area.

If any of this sounds familiar it would be great to hear from you!

Over the last few months I have been reviewing the action plan for Malleefowl prepared back in 2009. They are considered a nationally Vulnerable species, meaning that if we can't maintain the numbers we currently have then we are likely to lose them in a generation or so. And with massive fragmentation of their habitat, predation by foxes, and emerging issues with deer and wildfires, they really need our help to make it.

Monitoring of their breeding mounds has been undertaken in large national park reserves for some years but it struck me that something is missing. Private land sites!! We need to hear from the farmers, owners of bush blocks or those that know about or regularly visit Malleefowl mounds.



Above: A pair of malleefowl tend their nest near Salt Creek (photo: Dianne Haywood)

So, we think 'farmers are the missing link'. If we can gather as much landholder information as we can we will then be able to create a more accurate picture and offer help in the breeding areas.

Please come see us at the Lucindale Field Days and put a dot on our chart to help put Malleefowl back on the map; you'll find us in the Primary Industries tent.

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