

Avon's most wanted

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)

Description: A very distinctive bird, the Malleefowl (also known as the Gnow or Mallee chook) grows up to 70cm long and has grey, barred white and brown feathers on its back and is white underneath.

Malleefowl's require a large area to find food which may consist of flowers, buds, seeds and insects. The presence of a large mound is an indicator of whether a malleefowl is present in the local area. These mounds can be up to 5 meters wide and are built so the female can lay up to 33 eggs during summer. After between 60 and 90 days, chicks will hatch and struggle to the surface of the mound where they will then have to fend for themselves.

Conservation Status: **Vulnerable**

Conservation: The Malleefowl was once found throughout the southern half of Australia however fox predation, clearing and fire have affected its survival. The WA Malleefowl Network includes community groups, shires, government representatives and conservation organizations who are dedicated to researching and preserving Malleefowl populations.



Photo—Babs & Bert Wells / DEC

If you have seen a Malleefowl or would like more information, please contact the Department of Environment and Conservation.
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