

# NSW Malleefowl

**Paul Burton**  
**NSW Parks and Wildlife Service**

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) carry out most Malleefowl research and monitoring in NSW.

While addressing facets of the National Recovery Plan the NSW department has a State Action Plan to aid Malleefowl recovery.

Three main areas in NSW have populations of Malleefowl. The South West Mallee belt North East and North West of Buronga, the Central Mallee region South of Cobar and sections of State Forest near Dubbo.

The NPWS has injected funds during the last few years into a Fox Threat Abatement Plan (Foxtap) and Malleefowl have benefited from these monies. Monitoring of populations is conducted by air and numbers of breeding malleefowl are determined in annual surveys.

An example is the extensive work carried out by staff at the Buronga office who have been ground and aerial surveying for many years. When the Foxtap program started more nests were mapped to add to the pool but the monitoring of historical populations continued in Mallee Cliffs National Park and Tarawi Nature Reserve.

Although Malleefowl research is conducted by NPWS a number of pastoralists in the South West have instigated surveys in conserved areas of their Stations.

Though controversial to some the Southern Mallee Plain has added to the Reserve system vast areas of Malleefowl habitat with known populations within them. This has been a project coordinated by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Reserves NSW.

Several pastoralists have mapped and undertaken private surveys in their reserves and have adopted the birds as their own. Many of the reserves cross over lease boundaries and this has meant a conservation partnership between lessees.

The reserves are fenced, require feral pest control and most importantly are ungrazed by introduced stock. My experiences have shown that these community people are exceptionally proud of their efforts and fiercely defend the birds and nests. Often to the point where the entire family has become passionately involved. The benefits to the environment are significant due to the indicator species we know as the Malleefowl being saved which of course leads to other species survival such as the endangered Pygmy Possums and Mallee Worm Lizards.

Throughout NSW many volunteers carry out work on their land and in areas of the State Forest for Malleefowl.

While we do not have the community network established in several other States in Australia, this is more than offset by the substantial commitment of the NPWS to the Malleefowl and its survival in NSW. This will continue as many staff implement own passion and commitment – a recipe for a substantially bright future for Malleefowl in NSW.