

Threatened Species of the Riverina Education Program



Name: Malleefowl / *Leipoa ocellata*

- Hight: 55 to 60cm. Weight: up to 2.5 kg.
- Head and neck are buff-grey with a short bill.
- Body is dappled brown-black and white.
- It has great hearing and eyesight and relies on its camouflage.
- The female Malleefowl makes a high-pitched grunt but while in pairs, they make a soft, drawn-out cluck.
- Prefers areas of light sandy soils and habitats with Mallee trees that are tall, dense and have flowers.
- Mainly forage in open areas where there is a lot of native seeds, buds, flowers and fruits of herbs and various shrubs, insects (cockroaches, ants, soil invertebrates).
- Incubate eggs in large mounds that contain large volumes of sandy soil. The litter within the mounds must be dampened for it to decompose and provide heat for incubation of eggs. Up to 34 eggs may be laid in a single season, though usually between 15 and 24
- The male monitors the temperature within the egg chamber using its bill, works the mound during the breeding season to maintain a constant temperature around 34 degrees