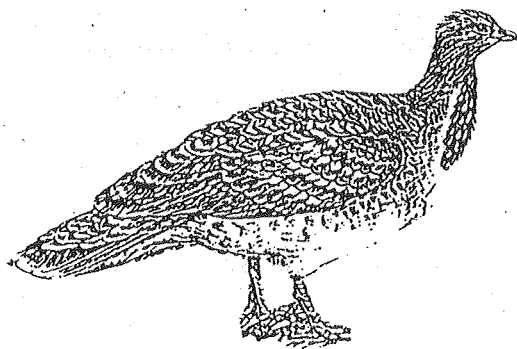


A
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN
FOR MALLEEFOWL CONSERVATION IN THE
GNOWANGERUP/ONGERUP/BORDEN AREA
(WESTERN AUSTRALIA)

PREPARED BY JEAN-PAUL ORSINI
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FEBRUARY 1994

*A*CKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Putting together this Community Action Plan has involved many meetings and discussions with members of the community and government agencies. I would like to thank the numerous individuals who gave their support and their time for this project.

Within the Malleefowl Preservation Group itself, the former president John Davis, and members Susanne Dennings, Allan Rose, Kelly O'Neill and Gary Taylor, were instrumental in making this project happen. Paul O' Mehan, president of the Gnowangerup Land Conservation District Committee, and Patrick McLennan, his predecessor, assisted with their unwavering support all along.

Jane Irving kindly gave permission to use the photograph and several illustrations from her book "Father and Mother Malleefowl". The drawing of the bird on the cover is taken from a leaflet produced by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Natasha Stone assisted with the layout and proofreading, and Pierre Horwitz with laser printing of the final draft.

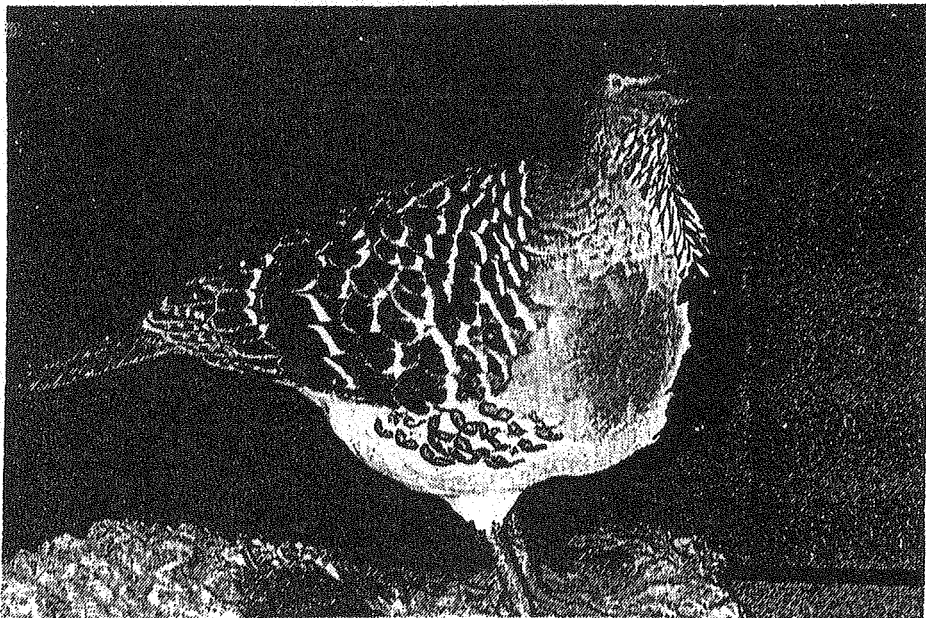
Last, but not least, the Group would like to thank the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation for their financial support in funding this project.

*Jean-Paul Orsini
WA co-ordinator National Threatened Species Network*

INTRODUCING THE MALLEEFOWL PRESERVATION GROUP

In July 1992, a group of local residents from the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden area met near Ongerup and decided to form the Malleefowl Preservation Group. Their concern was that the Malleefowl had been declining so much in recent times in the Gnowangerup Shire that it may soon become locally extinct. The group became part of the Gnowangerup Land Conservation District Committee and meets monthly.

During some of its first meetings, the Malleefowl Preservation Group recognised that many actions could be undertaken to conserve this unique bird. The idea of a Community Action Plan was presented and became the subject of a submission for a grant to the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation. This Community Action Plan is presented here.



*Malleefowl bird Finely crafted out of wood by John Davis,
on display at the Shire Office in Gnowangerup. Photo: Jean-Paul Orsini.*

LIST OF 18 ACTIONS TO PRESERVE THE MALLEEFOWL

To preserve and/or bring back the Malleefowl to suitable areas of the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden area involves a long term co-ordinated approach by land managers, community groups and government agencies. A list of actions is suggested here.

PRESERVING OR RESTORING MALLEEFOWL HABITAT	
1.	FENCE remnant vegetation from stock
2.	ESTABLISH fire contingency plan to preserve habitat
3.	CONTROL feral animals (foxes, cats, rabbits)
4.	ERADICATE weeds
5.	REVEGETATE corridors
6.	RESTORE bush understorey
7.	PRESERVE roadside vegetation
8.	PREVENT Malleefowl road kills
GAINING MORE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MALLEEFOWL	
9.	SURVEY and monitor Malleefowl populations
10.	MAP Malleefowl habitat
11.	RESEARCH Malleefowl life history
COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND EDUCATION	
12.	INCREASE community awareness
13.	PROMOTE education
14.	DISPLAY Malleefowl information poster
15.	ASSIST with fundraising
16.	SEEK financial assistance
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE	
17.	INTEGRATE Malleefowl habitat preservation into farm and catchment plans
18.	DEVELOP a Malleefowl Conservation Strategy for the Gnowangerup Shire and surrounding areas

QUICK GUIDE TO THE MALLEEFOWL COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

This *Malleefowl Community Action Plan* describes many actions (represented by the columns) involving a variety of community groups or agencies (represented by the lines). A mark in the chart (✓) suggests an action relevant to the particular group or agency. Numbers refer to the 'LIST OF 18. ACTIONS TO PRESERVE THE MALLEEFOWL' opposite page.

Actions →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>Local community groups/govt agencies ↓</i>																		
Aboriginal Corporation	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓				✓		
Agriculture Department	✓			✓	✓					✓		✓				✓		
Agricultural Protection Board			✓	✓								✓		✓		✓		
Bushfire Brigades												✓		✓				
CALM District Offices	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Country Women's Association									✓			✓	✓	✓				
Rural landholders	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Land Conservation District Committees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Main Roads Department				✓								✓		✓				
Malleefowl Preservation Group	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ongerup Museum				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
Parents and Citizens Association				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			
Regional media								✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Schools					✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shires	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>State community groups/govt agencies</i>																		
CALM-Wildlife Research Centre									✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓
Endangered Species Centre, Perth Zoo									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National Threatened Species Network WA									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RAOU-WA Group (Perth)									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Perth Universities									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

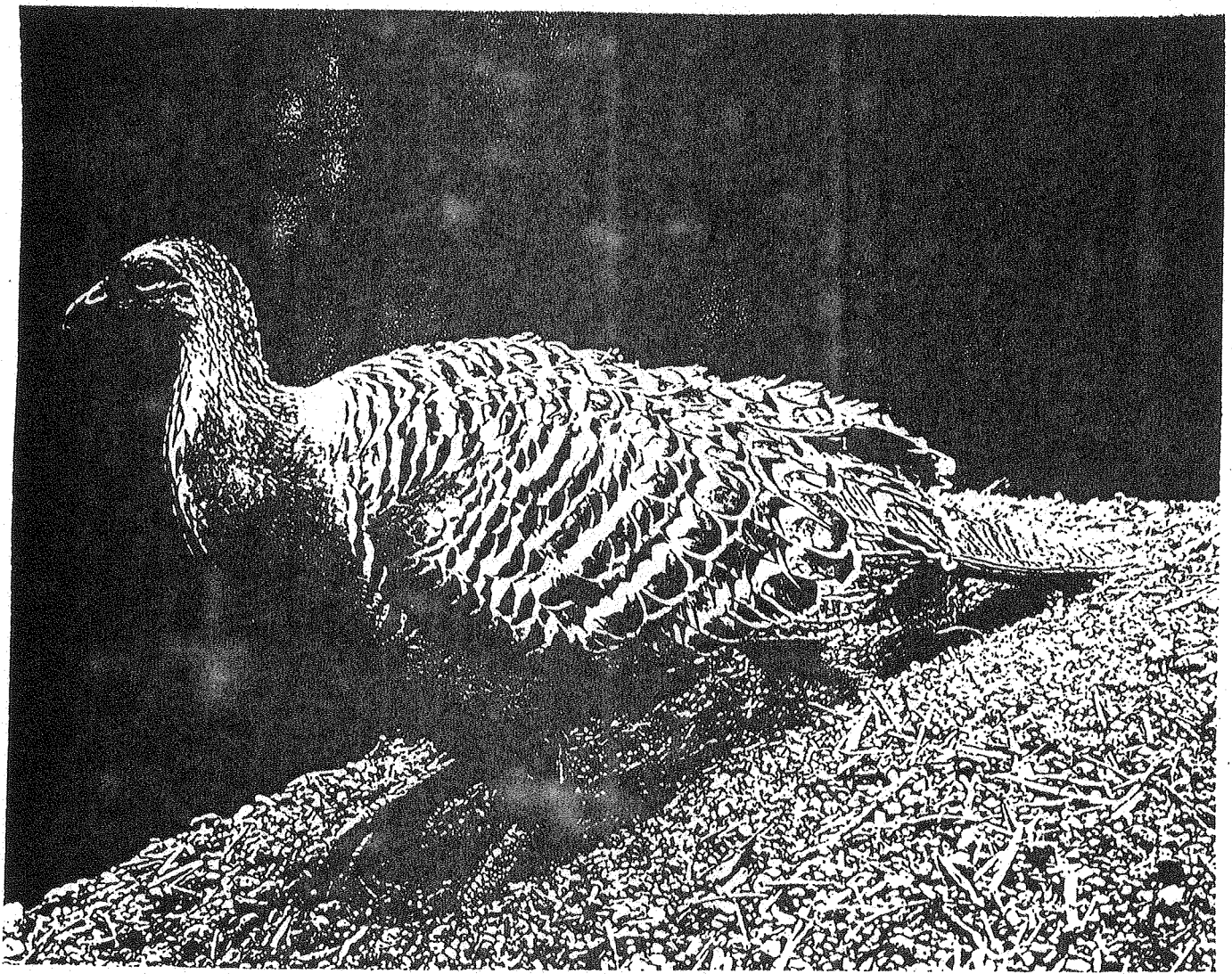


Photo of Malleefowl from the children's book
"Father and mother Malleefowl" by Jane Irving.

*"... the children however kept up their little songs
about the mallee fowl.*

...

The children sang softly until they fell asleep.

*Mallee fowl
Heaping up the sand.
Mallee fowl*

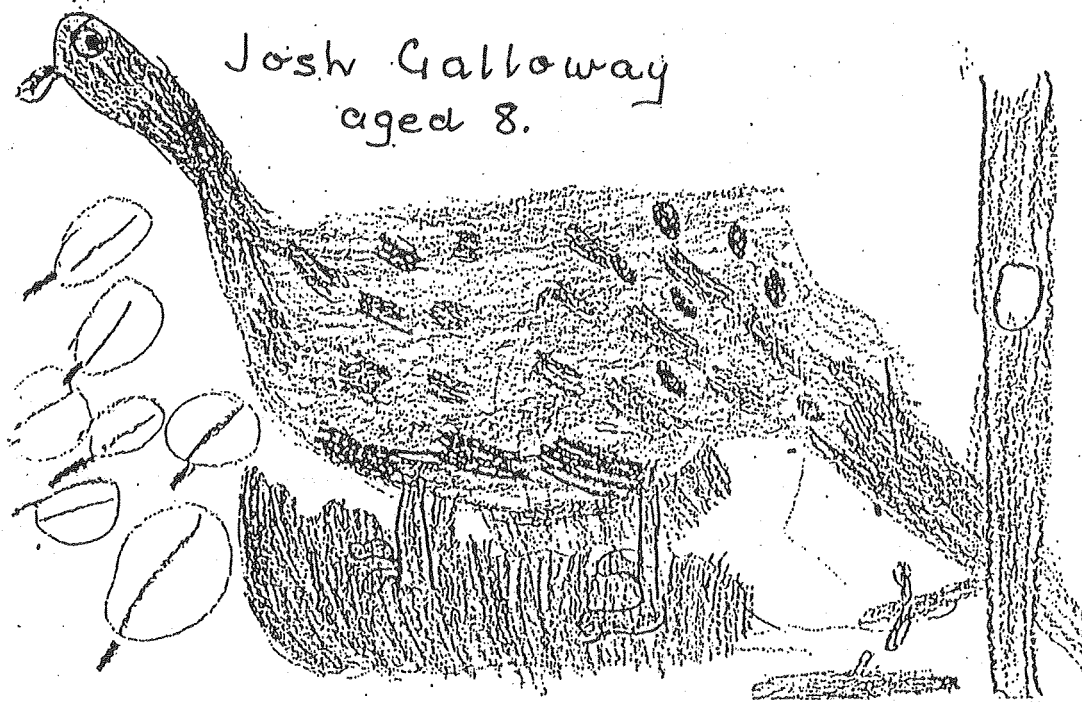
*Heaping up the sand.
Only one
Only one egg."*

Dreamtime story from the "Zebra Finch Journeys",
in: *"Australian Dreaming, 40,000 years of Aboriginal
History"*. by Jennifer Isaacs. Ure Smith Press,
Sydney, 1991.

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WHY PRESERVE THE MALLEEFOWL?

The Malleefowl: a unique, endangered species

The Malleefowl is one of the three Australian species of birds that build a large mound of soil and litter inside which the eggs are laid and incubated. As early as May or June, the Malleefowl opens up a crater, often in an old mound, and sweeps ground litter with its feet into the opening. With the winter rains, the decaying process starts and temperature builds up inside the mound. In late Winter, the litter is covered with soil and left until egg laying starts.

Heat required to incubate the eggs is produced mostly through natural fermentation of the organic matter. The male maintains a constant temperature of 33°C around the eggs throughout the breeding season (September to March). Harry Frith¹ has vividly described the life history of the Malleefowl in New South Wales and had already foreseen in the late 1950's that a decline would occur if the rate of agricultural development continued unabated.

Studies of Malleefowl diet in New South Wales and in Victoria have indicated that herbs (buds, flowers and seeds) constitute the major part of the diet (up to 70%) in autumn, winter and early spring. In addition, lerps – the carbohydrate tests of Psyllid insects attached to mallee leaves, have been found to be an important food for the bird in autumn and winter. In late spring and summer, fruits of small shrubs as well as acacia seeds are the major food source. Litter invertebrates are eaten whenever encountered.

Very little is known of the Malleefowl in Western Australia. More knowledge is needed before an effective conservation program for the Malleefowl conservation can be put in place².

Status of the Malleefowl in the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden area

In the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden area, active mounds are often associated with broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) and poison bush (*Gastrolobium* spp.) in mallee vegetation.

¹ Frith H. J. 1962. The Malleefowl. Angus and Robertson, Sydney.

² Orsini J.-P. 1993. A research plan for the Malleefowl in the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden district. Unpublished report to the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management, Woodvale, December 1993.

Although the Malleefowl was widespread in the area earlier in the century, it is now known breeding from only a small number of locations. So far the highest density recorded is three breeding pairs on a 130 ha bush remnant. The stronghold of the species in the area is in the south-east corner of the district between the Corackerup Rd and the Corackerup Creek, where some large bush remnants remain connected by road reserves and vegetation corridors.

Little information is available on the breeding status of the Malleefowl in the area. Local field surveys are currently under way to assess and monitor the status of the bird.

Heritage significance of the Malleefowl in the Gnowangerup area

The Malleefowl is of special heritage significance to the Gnowangerup Shire. The town of Gnowangerup takes its name after the word "Gnow", the name of the Malleefowl in the Nyungar Aboriginal language. According to legend, Gnowangerup is the place where the 'Gnow' or 'Mallee Hen' made her nest. The bird features on the crests of the Gnowangerup Shire and the District High School. It is the emblem of the Gnowangerup Aboriginal Corporation.

Many country people have a strong affinity with the Malleefowl, a long-lived bird which they remember as being widespread before land was developed for agriculture. Some Malleefowl can be extremely tame and birds have been known to feed with the chooks at the back of the farmhouse or visit the wheatbins at the time of harvest. One family on the Pallinup River used to visit a resident breeding pair; the birds had become quite tame over the years and could be watched on the mound from only a few feet away. This mound has ceased to be active since 1991.

For Aboriginal Nyungar people, the Malleefowl plays an important traditional and cultural role. It is well known to most local residents in the district.

Current threats on the Malleefowl

In Western Australia, the Malleefowl has declined throughout its range and is now endangered³. In agricultural areas of the South-West of Western Australia, the Malleefowl is now mainly found in isolated patches of remnant vegetation and the long-term survival of the species could be in doubt.

Clearing, fragmentation of habitat, grazing by stock and rabbits

Most of the bird's natural habitat has been modified through clearing and fragmentation. The long-term viability of isolated Malleefowl populations is unknown.

³The species is in the process of being added to the state list of Rare and Threatened Fauna.

Grazing by sheep and rabbits modifies Malleefowl habitat which becomes unsuitable for the bird. Grazing has been shown to degrade vegetation understorey. Shrubs gradually disappear and native herbs are replaced by introduced weeds. The amount of organic litter is considerably reduced. These modifications are likely to affect food availability as well as mound construction.

Effect of fire

Studies in Victoria^{4 5} have shown that fire has a major impact on Malleefowl breeding densities. Highest densities are found in mallee unburnt for at least 40 to 60 years. Density is reduced in mallee unburnt for less than 30 years. In mallee recently burnt by a large fire, Malleefowl was found to be restricted to small unburnt patches for breeding, even though the birds were still using the burnt areas for foraging. As a consequence, the number of breeding pairs considerably decreased.

Predation by foxes and cats

Feral predators (foxes and cats) put extra pressure on Malleefowl young which already suffer a high natural mortality rate from raptors and other native predators. Studies in New South Wales and Victoria show that foxes prey heavily on young Malleefowl chicks and can also dig into mounds for eggs. Mortality seems to decrease after six months of age. Adult birds appear to escape predation relatively well, as they have an excellent sense of sight and hearing and roost in a tree at night. Cats are known to have taken some young birds, but their real impact on Malleefowl is unknown.

Lack of recruitment of young birds into the adult population

Recruitment of young birds is essential to the survival of fragmented Malleefowl populations. Given the longevity of breeding adults (up to 30 years), replacement of adult birds need not occur every year. However, if not enough chicks survive to adulthood, replacement of aging adults and recolonisation of available habitats will not take place and the species will become locally extinct.

In New South Wales, Malleefowl has been rapidly declining in several nature reserves and no chicks are believed to survive fox predation. A reintroduction program from artificially incubated eggs is being initiated to re-establish viable wild populations.

In Dryandra State Forest near Narrogin, the number of *known* active mounds has declined from eight in 1978-79 to two in 1990-91, with an unconfirmed record in 1993-94, despite an extensive fox baiting program from 1985 which resulted in a spectacular recovery of the numbat and the woylie. The reasons for the decline of the Malleefowl are unknown.

⁴ Benshemesh J. 1990. Management of the Malleefowl with regard to fire. In: the Mallee Lands, a Conservation Perspective. J. C. Noble, P. J. Joss and G. K. Jones (eds.), CSIRO.

⁵ Benshemesh J. 1992. The conservation ecology of Malleefowl, with particular regard to fire. MSc Thesis, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria.

WHAT IS A MALLEEFOWL COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN?

A Malleefowl Community Action Plan is a co-ordinated list of actions that community groups, government agencies or individuals are willing to undertake towards the preservation of the Malleefowl. Most people within the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden area recognise that the Malleefowl has shown a dramatic decline over recent times and that the community as a whole can act to reverse this process.

Goals of the Plan

The goals of this Plan are:

(i) to foster community participation:

(a) to preserve sustainable and secure populations of the Malleefowl in their natural habitat,

(b) to identify, restore and manage suitable Malleefowl habitat to facilitate natural re-establishment of new populations,

(c) to assist with re-establishing Malleefowl populations in areas of the district where the species was formerly breeding.

(ii) to promote and reinforce co-operation between community groups, government agencies and local residents to preserve and restore Malleefowl habitat and populations.

(iii) to increase community awareness and participation for the preservation of the Malleefowl by extending practical information to land managers on Malleefowl habitat management.

What does the Plan consist of?

The Plan contains two sections:

(i) 'Current activities for the conservation of the Malleefowl', a summary of recent activities by members of the Malleefowl Preservation Group and others,

(ii) 'Planning for the future: managing the land for Malleefowl conservation', the Malleefowl Preservation Group's vision of what can be achieved to promote the conservation of the Malleefowl in the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden area.

Members of the Malleefowl Preservation Group have consulted with a wide range of individuals, community groups and government agencies and obtained support in a variety of ways. It will be apparent from what follows that this Community Action Plan covers a wide range of activities, from a brief phone call or radio interview to an extended field survey, from selling Malleefowl "It's Gnow or never" T-shirts to carrying out short and long-term projects funded by government grants.

Some of these actions have already been carried out, others are in the making while some are scheduled over the second half of 1993 and will extend over the following three years. Some are directed towards Malleefowl conservation, such as fox baiting or Malleefowl surveys, while others are aimed at increasing community awareness and information, such as writing a short story for the local newspaper or talking to the local school children.

How was the Plan prepared?

A list of community groups and government agencies that could play a role in the Plan was prepared and contact was made, either by telephone or by letter, over a period of eight months. Many individuals were already aware and supportive of efforts to preserve the Malleefowl from media coverage of the activities of the Group on local radios and the regional press. This made initial contacts easier.

Who can participate

Any group or individual can make a contribution towards the conservation of the Malleefowl. Every group, every individual in the community can make a difference as to whether the Malleefowl will survive and expand in the Gnowangerup area or will continue to decline and maybe finally vanish.

This Community Action Plan shows how the dedicated actions of various groups or organisations in the community can become part of an overall effort to preserve the Malleefowl. It demonstrates how the causes for decline can be addressed at a local level with limited resources. The Malleefowl Preservation Group will strive to monitor the status of the bird in the area, so that progress can be followed and actions adjusted if need be.

Area covered by the Plan

The Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden area

The district covered by this Plan (see map next page) is located about 350 km south-east of Perth. It is broadly defined by the northern boundary of the Gnowangerup Shire to the North, the Corackerup Creek to the South-East and the Gnowangerup-Wellstead line to the South-West. It covers around 4,000 km².

The district contains most of the Gnowangerup Shire and a small part of the Jerramungup Shire. It overlaps three Land Conservation Districts (Gnowangerup, Jerramungup and Wellstead) and two CALM regions (South Coast and Wheatbelt regions).

The main localities within this area are Gnowangerup, Ongerup, Borden and Wellstead. Many contacts were made outside the area in surrounding towns, including Jerramungup, Katanning, Narrogin, Nyabing, Pingrup and Albany, where regional or district offices of most government agencies are based. Support was also obtained in Perth from government organisations and agencies.

Natural features of the area

The major natural features of the area are the Stirling Range to the West/South-West and the major drainage systems of the Pallinup River and the Corackerup Creek. The district has some outstanding natural values. Over 1,400 species of plants have been recorded, with 576 species in the Corackerup Nature Reserve alone⁶. A recent book covers the natural history of the nearby Stirling Range National Park⁷ and includes a checklist of the flora of the Park which may be of use for the area covered by this Plan.

A total of 180 species of birds are listed for the area⁸ (Newbey and Newbey 1984), of which one, the Western Whipbird, is on the State list of Threatened Fauna and found in several remnants where the Malleefowl is breeding. As many as 15 species of honeyeaters are found in the mallee.

⁶ Newbey K. R. 1979. The vegetation of Central South Coastal Western Australia. *M. Phil.*, Murdoch University, Perth.

⁷ C. Thomson, G. Hall and G. Friend. 1993. Mountains of Mystery – A Natural History of the Stirling Range National Park. CALM, Como.

⁸ Newbey K. R. and B. Newbey. 1984. Checklist of birds. Gnowangerup, Ongerup and Needilup district including the Stirling Range National Park. Great Southern Herald, Katanning.

Malleefowl Community Action Plan

LEGEND

- SHIRE BOUNDARY
- ~ RIVER
- GRAVEL ROAD
- ▬ SEALED ROAD
- ▲ MOUNTAIN
- ① HIGHWAY No SIGN
- ▨ NATURE RESERVE/
NATIONAL PARK

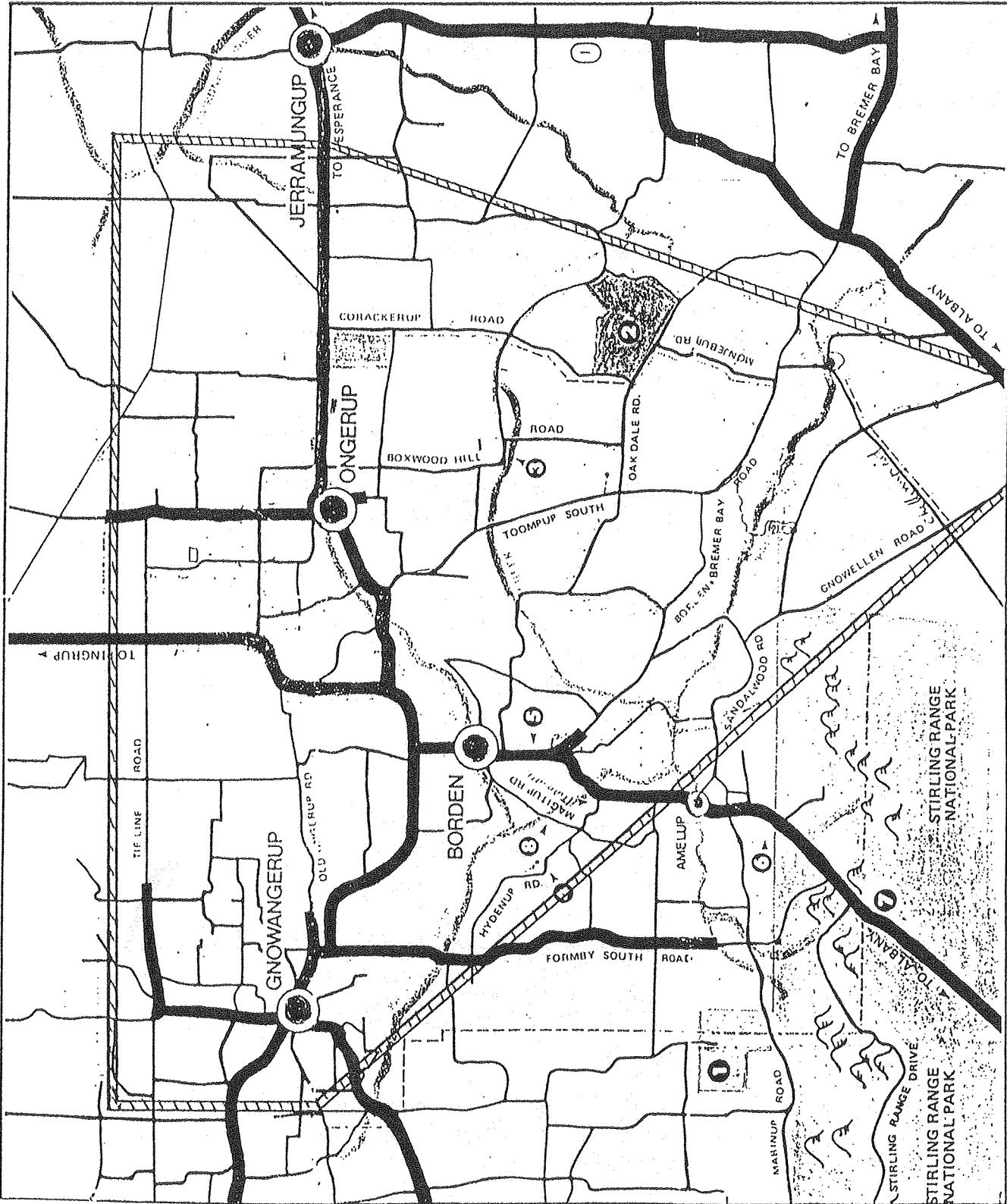
PLACES OF INTEREST

(from 1:50,000 scale)

- ① CAMEL LAKE NATURE RESERVE
- ② CORACKERUP NATURE RESERVE
- ③ COWALLELLUP NATURE RESERVE
- ④ MAILEUP DOWNS FARM HOLIDAYS WILDLIFE LOWER GARDEN & ACCOMMODATIC
- ⑤ WILDLIFE HAVEN
- ⑥ STIRLING RANGE CARAVAN & CHALET PARK.
- ⑦ STIRLING RANGE NATIONAL PARK
- ⑧ DOWN-UNDER PLAQUE & P/CNIC AREA.

GENERAL ADVICE

Fires should not be lit in the open.
 The State prohibits the picking of wildflowers - apart from on private property WITH the owner's permission.
 Don't enter farmland without the owner's consent.
 Some graded roads may be slippery after rain.
 Beware of kangaroos when travelling secondary roads late evening or night.
 Dogs and firearms are not permitted in national parks.



Map of the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden district covered by this Plan

CURRENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE MALLEEFOWL

After one year and a half of activities of all sorts, it can be worthwhile to stop and reflect on what has been achieved so far, what is currently being done and what the plans are for the future. It has been attempted here to LIST all the events that have contributed directly or indirectly to help preserve the Malleefowl. It illustrates the great variety of contributions that have taken place.

Public information and awareness

The Malleefowl Preservation Group has already carried out various activities, often in association with local residents, community groups and government agencies.

Regular activities of the Malleefowl Preservation Group

- Monthly meetings of the Group in Ongerup.
- Production of issue No. 1 and 2 of 'Malleefowl Matters', newsletter of the Group sent to 300 people around Australia.

Media

Over 50 media articles, reports, radio and television broadcasts have contributed to raise public awareness about Malleefowl conservation and the activities of the Malleefowl Preservation Group. The following range of news media were involved:

- Regional television station (Golden West Network): broadcast of a program on the biological survey carried out by the Malleefowl Preservation Group in Sept. 1993, with close-up footage of a bird working on its mound.
- Radio interviews on ABC Regional radio Albany, Great Southern, Bunbury, Geraldton and ABC Statewide programs.
- Daily press: the West Australian.
- Regional press: Katanning Herald, Albany Advertiser, Gnowangerup Star.
- Local community news: Jerramungup Post, Pingrup Post, Gairdner Gazette, Wellstead Whisper, Fremantle Herald.

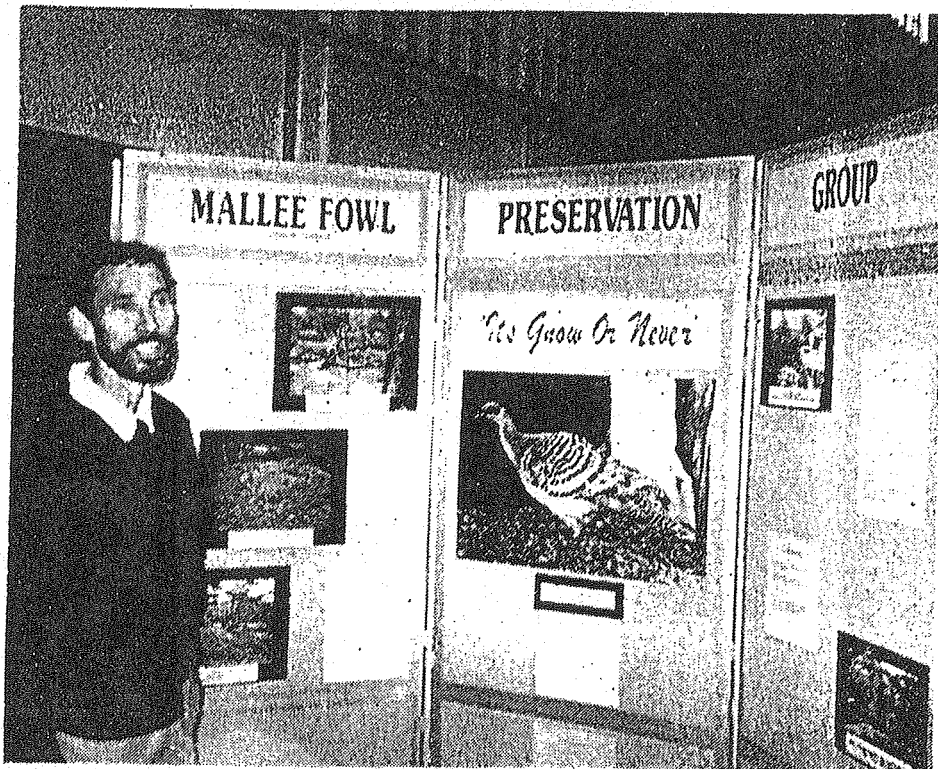
- Newsletters: Western Australian Birdnotes (RAOU-WA Group newsletter); Rural Environment Newsletter; The Web and Wanted Alive (newsletters of the National Threatened Species Network).

Shows, festivals, theatre

- Malleefowl information stall at the 'Genovieve 500' Car Rally in Katanning, Feb. 1993, and the York Earthcare Festival, Northam, March 1993.
- Ongerup Museum display during the Ongerup Wildflower Show, Sept. 1993.
- Aboriginal Youth Theatre Company planning to write and stage a play on Malleefowl.

Malleefowl information display

- Making a Malleefowl information poster (see photograph below).
- Display presented at the Gnowangerup, Borden, Ongerup, Jerramungup, Bremer Bay, Gairdner schools, libraries and shire offices, various conferences and seminars, shows.



Malleefowl information poster on display in Katanning (Feb. 1993).

Photo: Jean-Paul Orsini.

Conferences

The activities of the Malleefowl Preservation Group and the Malleefowl conservation message have been presented at various conferences:

- Paper 'Malleefowl conservation, Gnowangerup: a local community project' presented at the National Conference of the Australian Association for Environmental Education, Perth, 28 Sept.-2 Oct. 1992.
- Poster paper presented at the Healesville Conference 'Reintroduction Biology of Australasian Fauna', Healesville, Victoria, 19-21 April 1993.
- Workshop 'Bringing back the Malleefowl and other stories' presented at the Wheatbelt Landcare Conference, Northam, 26-28 August 1993.
- Poster presented at the State Landcare Conference, Perth, 6-8 October 1993.
- Paper submitted to the Conference 'Nature conservation: the role of Networks', Geraldton, 15-20 May 1994.

Papers, articles⁹

- 'Malleefowl conservation in the south-west of Western Australia'. *Western Australian Birdnotes*, Newsl. of the RAOU-WA Group, Dec. 1992: 7-8.
- 'Endangered species: the Malleefowl project'. *The Greener Times*, Aug. 1992: 13.
- 'Conservation of endangered species is everyone's business'. *The Web*, Newsl. of the National Threatened Species Network, No. 6, May-July 1993: 2-3.
- 'Research Plan for the Malleefowl in the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden district (Western Australia)'. Report to the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management, Wildlife Research Centre, Woodvale. Dec. 1993, 18 pp.

Education

Local schools

- Gnowangerup and Jerramungup district High School: talk given to students.
- Ongerup School:
 - One-semester project on Malleefowl
Construction of a man-made Malleefowl mound at the Ongerup Museum, presentation of a Malleefowl display at the Museum for the Wildflower Show (Sept. 93),
 - Visit by school children of a Malleefowl mound in the district.
 - Address school assembly.
- Borden School:
 - Visit by school children to a Malleefowl mound,
 - School project on endangered species.
 - Address the Parents & Citizens group.

⁹Copy available from the author of this report on request.

Perth universities

- Edith Cowan University (School of Environmental Management): four work experience students for field projects in Sept. 1992 and 1993 (Malleefowl surveys).

Children's book

Jane Irving, from Moorine Rock (Western Australia), wrote, illustrated and published "*Father and Mother Malleefowl*", a children's book intended for primary school children. The book is available through the Malleefowl Preservation Group or directly from the author¹⁰.

Field activities

Surveys

- Ground search for Malleefowl mounds in four vegetation remnants (Sept. 1992).
- Malleefowl Research Expedition organised by the National Threatened Species Network (WA), the Endangered Species Centre (Perth Zoo), and the Malleefowl Preservation Group (11-19 Sept. 1993). During the survey, a 300 ha grid was set up. Five active and 28 inactive mounds were found and positioned in relation to the grid. A total of 45 participants took part in the field activities during the week, with an average of 12 to 15 people every day.

Feral predator control

- Fox 1080 baiting of the Corackerup Reserve (30/4 and 4/10/1993).
- Fox shooting and baiting on private properties.
- Trapping of feral cats.

Road signs, road traffic control

- Placing road signs "Malleefowl crossing" to warn motorists about the possible presence of Malleefowl on the road, especially at harvest time.
- Closure of Foster Road to traffic with 'Road Closed' signs and gates erected to protect a Malleefowl population nearby.

Financial assistance, grants, fundraising

Fundraising

Sale of Malleefowl T-shirts, badges and Malleefowl children's books with proceeds donated to the Malleefowl Preservation Group.

¹⁰ Jane Irving, Townfoot, Moorine Rock WA 6425. Tel. (090) 49 8015.

Assistance in cash

- A project by "Artburst", a Perth-based company distributing T-shirts, in association with the National Threatened Species Network (WA), raised funds and assisted with the purchase of equipment (maps, compasses for ground surveys), cover telephone and travel expenses and design a Malleefowl poster display.
- Donation from the Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation (\$200) for a fox baiting program in the Corackerup Nature Reserve.
- Donation from the Gnowangerup Shire (\$300) for the purchase of gates to restrict public access on a gravel road and protect Malleefowl from road kills.

Support in kind

- Gnowangerup Land Conservation District Committee: support for two grant applications: Gordon Reid Foundation and National Landcare Program (both successful).
- Support from individual members of the Group (own time, accommodation during field surveys, loan to purchase initial lot of 150 Malleefowl T-shirts).
- Support from the National Threatened Species Network (WA): writing of grant applications, scientific assistance, co-ordination of Sept. 1993 field survey.
- Support from the Endangered Species Centre, Perth Zoo, for the Malleefowl survey at the Corackerup Nature Reserve in September 1993: scientific assistance, vehicle, equipment.
- Purchase of display panels by the Gnowangerup LCDC for display of a Malleefowl poster prepared by the group. Use of the Gnowangerup Shire's photocopier and fax by the Malleefowl Preservation Group at no cost.
- Curtin University (School of Surveying and Land Information): loan of surveying equipment for Malleefowl ground surveys.

Government grants

- Grant from the Gordon Reid Foundation (\$3,000) to the Malleefowl Preservation Group to write and implement the present Malleefowl Community Action Plan and undertake local conservation activities and field projects.
- Grant from the state government (\$500) to the National Threatened Species Network under the 'Social Advantage: Understanding local Conservation' initiative, to study the "Traditional and cultural significance of the Malleefowl for Aboriginal people in the South-west of Western Australia".
- Funding by CALM to the National Threatened Species Network of a Malleefowl Research Plan for the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden area.
- Three-year Save the Bush grant from the National Landcare Program to the Malleefowl Preservation Group to survey and monitor Malleefowl in the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden area and characterise the bird's habitat; recent appointment of a Project Officer.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: MANAGING THE LAND FOR MALLEEFOWL CONSERVATION

18 actions to preserve the Malleefowl

When compiling this Plan, 18 actions were identified that would contribute significantly to the conservation of the Malleefowl in the area.

Preserving or restoring Malleefowl habitat

1. FENCE remnant vegetation from stock
2. ESTABLISH fire contingency plan to preserve habitat
3. CONTROL feral animals (foxes, cats, rabbits)
4. ERADICATE weeds
5. REVEGETATE corridors
6. RESTORE bush understorey
7. PRESERVE roadside vegetation
8. PREVENT Malleefowl road kills

Gaining more knowledge of the Malleefowl

9. SURVEY and monitor Malleefowl populations
10. MAP Malleefowl habitat
11. RESEARCH Malleefowl life history

Community awareness and education

12. INCREASE community awareness
13. PROMOTE education
14. DISPLAY Malleefowl information poster
15. ASSIST with fundraising
16. SEEK financial assistance

Farm and catchment planning, Malleefowl conservation strategy for the Shire

17. INTEGRATE Malleefowl habitat preservation into farm and catchment plans
18. DEVELOP a Malleefowl Conservation Strategy for the Gnowangerup Shire and surrounding areas.

To preserve Malleefowl in the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden area, it is essential to preserve the bird's present habitat, as well as habitat where the species is not found currently, but where it was formerly breeding.

Former habitat can be easily identified from the sighting of old mounds. However, the suitability of such habitat for recolonisation needs to be assessed from information available on currently breeding populations. The preservation of former habitat would play a key role in the recolonisation of areas where the Malleefowl has become locally extinct.

Creation of a Malleefowl sanctuary

The creation of a Malleefowl sanctuary in the district would serve several purposes:

- (i) develop public education and awareness about the needs for Malleefowl conservation.
- (ii) provide a long lasting activity centred around Malleefowl preservation that would enhance the cultural and heritage value of the Gnowangerup area, support local employment and help fund Malleefowl conservation programs.
- (iii) provide the infrastructure and expertise to start a future Malleefowl reintroduction program in the district if field research demonstrate the need for such a program.
- (iv) protect the wild birds from unnecessary disturbance by onlookers.

Such a sanctuary would require a prior feasibility study to investigate:

- who would be the organisation involved in the project,
- what the cost would be and how much income could be generated.
- how the initial investment could be attracted.
- what the preferred site would be.
- where the expertise required for such a project would come from.

Land units for Malleefowl conservation

There are a multiplicity of land management units that are relevant to the management and preservation of the Malleefowl in the Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden area. Here are some suggestions for landholders and local government authorities and agencies on how to include Malleefowl conservation into long-term land management.

Farm and catchment management

Farm and catchment management plans have become widespread in rural areas. Management of Malleefowl habitat can be integrated to long-term farm and catchment management plans.

Goals: Manage Malleefowl habitat as part of farm and catchment plans.
Participants: Local landholders, Land Conservation District Committee, bushfire brigades.

- Actions:
- Identify and map Malleefowl habitat.
 - Fence remnant vegetation.
 - Control feral (foxes, cats, rabbits).
 - Implement a fire control plan.
 - Initiate a weed eradication program.
 - Restore remnant vegetation understorey.
 - Restore or re-establish vegetation corridors between patches of suitable habitats to facilitate the movements of the Malleefowl and recolonisation of remnant patches from which the species has disappeared.

Gnowangerup Shire and surrounding areas

A conservation strategy for the Gnowangerup Shire and surrounding areas would assist in outlining how Malleefowl habitat could best be preserved in the district. Special attention should be given to the importance of road reserves and the conservation of roadside vegetation, acting as corridors for Malleefowl to recolonise lost habitat.

- Goals: Preserve Malleefowl habitat and vegetation corridors linking Malleefowl habitat patches.
- Participants: Shire, bushfire brigades, Main Roads Department, CALM, APB, Department of Agriculture, LCDC, Aboriginal Corporation, Malleefowl Preservation Group.
- Actions:
- Identify, map and preserve Malleefowl habitat.
 - Preserve or restore vegetation corridors along roads.
 - Place road signs in critical areas to avoid Malleefowl road kills.
 - Promote a fire contingency plan to control fire in Malleefowl habitat.
 - Promote control of ferals (foxes, cats and rabbits).
 - Initiate a weed eradication program.

Managing reserves and other vested lands

There are a number of reserves under different status in the district and managed for various purposes: conservation reserves, Aboriginal reserves, gravel reserves, shire reserves, Shire and Main Roads Department road reserves.

- Goals: Promote the conservation of Malleefowl habitat in reserves and other vested lands, seeking assistance of the local community.
- Participants: Local residents, CALM, Shires, local Aboriginal Corporation, Main Roads Department, local Bushfire Brigades.
- Actions:
- Identify and map Malleefowl habitat in reserves and vested lands.
 - Control ferals (foxes, cats, rabbits).
 - Implement a fire control plan.
 - Monitor weeds and initiate a weed eradication program.

Annexe 1: Groups/agencies contacted during the preparation of this Plan

The groups/agencies contacted during the preparation of this Plan are listed below:

Western Australia

Community groups

- Gnowangerup/Ongerup/Borden area and surrounding districts

Land Conservation District Committees of Gnowangerup, Kalannie-Goodlands, Dalwallinu, Yilgarn.

Bushfire Brigades of Ongerup, Jerramungup.

Schools: Ongerup, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Borden, Gairdner River.

Ongerup Museum.

Gnowangerup Aboriginal Corporation

Southern Aboriginal Corporation (Albany).

Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation (Northam).

Friends of Fitzgerald River National Park (Hopetoun).

Friends of Stirling Range National Park (Amelup).

Parents and Citizens Associations of Gnowangerup, Ongerup, Borden.

APEX Ongerup.

- Perth

National Threatened Species Network (WA).

Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (WA Group).

Conservation Council of Western Australia.

WA Bush Survival Group.

WA Naturalists' Club.

Government-funded organisations/agencies

Agriculture Protection Board: Forrestfield, Katanning, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup.

CALM District/Regional Offices: Albany, Katanning, Merredin, Narrogin.

CALM WA Threatened Species and Communities Unit, Woodvale.

CALM Wildlife Research Centre (Woodvale), Wildlife Branch (Como),
Pinnacle House (Mt Pleasant).
CSIRO, Division of Wildlife and Ecology, Helena Valley.
Endangered Species Centre, Perth Zoo.
Shires of Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Dalwallinu.
Curtin University, School of Surveying and Land Information.
Edith Cowan University, School of Environmental Management.
Murdoch University, School of Biological Sciences.
University of Western Australia, Schools of Botany and Geography.
University of Western Australia Extension.
WA Museum, Perth.

Other States/Territories

ACT

Aboriginal Programs Section, Australian Nature Conservation Agency.
Bureau of Resource Sciences, Department of Primary Industries.
Endangered Species Unit, Australian Nature Conservation Agency.

South Australia

Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield Conservation Park (Blanchetown).
Department of Environment and Planning (Adelaide).
Friends of Bakara Conservation Park.
Friends of Ferries-McDonald Conservation Park.
Friends of Pooginook Conservation Park.
Mantung/ Maggea farmers' group (Save the Bush project).
Monarto Fauna Complex (Monarto).
National Threatened Species Network-South Australia (Adelaide).
Nature Conservation Society of South Australia (Adelaide).
South Australian National Park and Wildlife Service (Adelaide).

Victoria

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (Melbourne, Mildura).
Friends of the Malleefowl (Nhill/ Little Desert).
Sunraysia Malleefowl Preservation Group (Mildura).
National Threatened Species Network, Victorian and national co-ordinators
(Melbourne).
Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, National Headquarters (Melbourne).

New South Wales

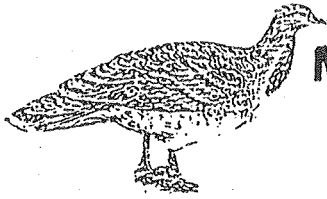
NSW National Park and Wildlife Service (Griffith, Hurtsville).
Western Plains Zoo (Dubbo).
World Wide Fund for Nature (Sydney).

Annexe 2: Funding programs relevant to Malleefowl conservation

The following list is intended as a guide for land managers and community groups seeking financial assistance for actions related to Malleefowl conservation. This information has been compiled in January 1994 and is subject to change.

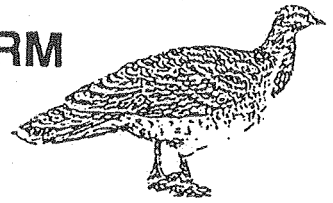
<i>Funding Program</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Deadline for 1994</i>
<i>STATE</i>		
Community Conservation Support Program	Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation	21/3/94
Remnant Vegetation Protection Scheme	WA Department of Agriculture	*
Plants for Conservation	Greening Western Australia	20/8/94
National Estate Grants Program (WA)	Heritage Council of Western Australia	25/3/94
<i>COMMONWEALTH</i>		
National Landcare Program (Save the Bush/ One Billion Trees): Community Grants	Contacts: CALM, Dept of Agriculture, Waterways Commission, Water Authority	25/3/94
Contract Employment Program for Aboriginals in Natural and Cultural Resource Management (CEPANCRM)	ANCA (Australian Nature Conservation Agency)	31/3/94
Endangered Species Program (ESP)	ANCA	*
Feral Pest Program (FPP)	ANCA	*
National Estate Grants Program (National)	AHC (Australian Heritage Commission)	25/3/94
Landcare and Environmental Action Program (LEAP)	Contact: WA Dept of Training	*

* Enquiry to be directed to the agency listed.



MALLEE FOWL SIGHTINGS FORM

Malleefowl Preservation Group
Box 3, ONGERUP WA 6336



DATE OF SIGHTING: _____

SIGHTING CODE NO: _____

LOCATION OF SIGHTING _____

ROAD (DISTANCE ALONG ROAD FROM RECOGNISED POINT)

RESERVE: (RESERVE NAME & NUMBER)

PRIVATE PROPERTY: (OWNERS NAME, BLOCK NO. & LOCATION OF PROPERTY)

OTHER:

NUMBER SIGHTED: (ADULTS - YOUNG)

ALIVE/DEAD:

HAVE MALLEEFOWL BEEN SIGHTED HERE BEFORE BY REPORTER/OTHER?

NAME/ADDRESS OF REPORTER:

OTHER INFORMATION:

MALLEEFOWL PRESERVATION GROUP - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

First names:.....Surname:.....
Address:.....
.....
.....Postcode.....

Enclosed please find	\$10.00	family membership
	\$ 6.00	single membership
	\$ 3.00	pensioner/child under 16
Additional malleefowl badges	\$10.00	each.

Post your membership application to:
The Treasurer
Malleefowl Preservation Group
P.O. Box 3
ONGERUP, W.A. 6336



Illustration by Jane Irving from her book "Father and Mother Malleefowl"