

# Malleefowl

## Powerful big-foot builder



### Habitat



Malleefowl love the Mallee in north-west Victoria. The Mallee is dry, sunny and sandy. The plants growing there are short and tough. Malleefowl like the sandy soil and lots of leaf litter.

### Shelter



These birds look heavy but are strong flyers. They sleep in trees at night. Malleefowl lay their eggs in mounds on the ground made from sand and leaves.

### Food



Malleefowl use their strong legs to scrape the leaf litter. As they walk, they uncover snacks. Their favourite foods are seeds, flowers, fruits, ants, cockroaches and lerps.

### Protection



Malleefowl need a lot of leaf litter. They use it to find food and build warm mounds for their eggs. Their habitat needs protection from clearing and fires that burn too often.

### Care



Rangers and volunteers care for the Mallee by planting new trees and removing pests like foxes and cats. They protect Malleefowl habitat from fires so leaf litter can build up.

## Features

### Malleefowl:

- Only fly short distances
- Are birds that lay eggs in mounds on the ground
- Use soil and leaf litter to keep their eggs warm
- Have grey heads, white chests and speckled wings
- Stay still and blend into the bush when scared
- Are about as long as two watermelons
- Weigh about the same as a chicken

