



Malleefowl Monitoring Program

South Australian Murray Darling Basin

Summary report 2014/2015

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Kevin Smith and Friends of Riverland Parks (FORP) volunteers; Grant Geyer and Community Land Management (CLM) volunteers; Chris Lill and BirdLife Australia (Gluepot Reserve) volunteers; Graham Frahn and Australian Landscape Trust volunteers; Stuart Pillman and Scientific Expedition Group (SEG) volunteers; Scott Jennings and Sporting Shooters SA volunteers; Kevin Burrett, Peter Graff, Michael Dolan, David Loveband, Brian Tiernan, Vaughan Wilson, Graeme Tonkin, Tony Chambers, Henry Short, Chad Burbidge, Darryn Burdett and James Robertson.

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Introduction

The program was initiated by DEWNR in 2004. The original aim was to implement best practice monitoring of the existing network of malleefowl grids on public and private land. This involved adopting the monitoring system developed by the Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group. This monitoring system later became the national standard and has since been implemented throughout South Australia as part of DEWNR's ongoing commitment to the National Malleefowl Recovery Plan.

The program is now mainly focussed on the consolidation of the volunteer network and annual surveys of all the regularly monitored grids in the region. The processing of the monitoring data and its incorporation into the National Malleefowl Monitoring Database (NMMD) has also become an integral part of the project.

This report includes a summary of the 2014/2015 breeding season monitoring results and the number of volunteer hours contributed.

Monitoring results for the 2014/2015 breeding season

Grid	Mounds visited	Mounds missed	New mounds found	Active mounds	Active mounds last season	5 year mounds (due 2015)
s03 Cooltong	40	0	0	0	0	0
s05 Danggali 1	9	0	0	0	1	2
s06 Pooginook	33	0	0	0	0	0
s07 Bakara	51	0	0	4	1	5
s08 Shorts	37	0	0	1	2	4
s09 Chowilla	13	0	0	1	1	7
s10 Ferries McDonald	44	0	0	2	3	17
s15 Danggali 2	5	0	0	1	0	2
s19 Taylorville	25	0	0	0	n/a	1
s35 Taylorville West	9	0	0	0	n/a	0
s36 Taylorville East	3	0	0	0	n/a	0
s44 Peebinga	47	0	0	11	5	7
s45 Karte	20	0	0	2	2	6
s52 Gluepot 3	15	0	0	0	0	8
s54 Gluepot 5	14	0	0	0	0	2
s56 Gluepot 7	11	1	0	0	0	3
s57 Gluepot 8	8	0	0	0	1	2
s59 Gluepot 11	12	0	0	0	1	3
s60 Gluepot 12	10	0	0	1	1	5
s63 Gluepot 15	9	0	0	0	0	4
s67 Bandon	47	0	0	0	0	12
s68 Ettrick	21	0	0	2	3	6
s69 Murray Bridge AR	42	0	0	6	10	7
s74 Taylorville North West	6	0	0	2	n/a	0
TOTALS	531	1	0	33	31	103*

Blue grid names indicate positive trend compared with last season

Red grid names indicate negative trend compared with last season

Black grid names indicate no change compared with last season or no results available from last season

* Includes mounds put onto the 5 year list when 2014/2015 monitoring data was processed

Summary of volunteer hours contributed

The total volunteer hours contributed during the 2014/2015 monitoring season were as follows:

Cooltong: 42 hours (FORP volunteers)
Danggali and Chowilla: 45 hours (CLM volunteers)
Pooginook: 11 hours (Kevin Smith)
Bakara: 7.75 hours (Stuart Pillman)
Short's: 30 hours (SEG volunteers)
Ferries MacDonald: 27 hours (Kevin Burrett, Peter Graff, David Loveband, Brian Tiernan, Vaughan Wilson)
Peebinga: 10 hours (Kevin Burrett)
Karte: 22 hours (Sporting Shooters SA)
Gluepot: 104.75 hours (BirdLife Australia volunteers)
Bandon: 15.5 hours (Michael Dolan, David Loveband)
Ettrick: 16 hours (Michael Dolan, Peter Graff)
Murray Bridge Army Range: 19 hours (Graeme Tonkin, Tony Chambers)
Taylorville grids: 32.5 hours (Graham Frahn, ALT volunteers)

Total 2014/2015 season: 382.5 volunteer hours (total 2013/2014 season: 659.25 hours)

General comments

- Widespread good opening rains provided some initial optimism for a productive breeding season. However, in northern parts rainfall was below average after the late autumn/early winter period with above average temperatures. In southern parts, average or above average rainfall extended further into the year before drier conditions prevailed in spring. Unlike last season, monitoring results across the region did not necessarily reflect this rainfall pattern.
- A total of 33 active mounds were recorded in the project area out of the 531 mounds visited, although it should be noted that over half of those active mounds were recorded on only 2 grids (Peebinga 11 and MBAR 6). Last season a total of 31 active mounds were recorded.
- The good results on the Bakara and Peebinga grids do not seem to be necessarily related to localised rainfall events, although the rainfall figures that this observation is based on were only taken from the nearest Bureau of Meteorology rain gauge. However, there is no doubt that the vegetation on the Peebinga grid and in parts of the Bakara grid was in noticeably better condition than elsewhere in the region.
- Four grids on Taylorville Station (3 existing and 1 new) were included in the annual monitoring program this season.
- Breeding activity increased on 3 grids (the same as last season); decreased on 7 grids (compared to 10 last season); and was unchanged on 10 grids (compared to 7 last season).
- Despite a number of new volunteers being involved this season, volunteer hours were down markedly, due to a combination of volunteers being unavailable and the cancelling of the usual SEG surveys at Bakara and Shorts on the same weekend, which involve a large group of volunteers.
- The transition from Palms to a combination of smart phones and MobileMappers for collecting the monitoring data has been completed, with only the Birds Australia volunteers at Gluepot and one other volunteer needing training on the smart phones and/or MobileMappers next season.
- Next season all mounds on all grids will be due to be checked, including all 5 year listed mounds.

SAMDB malleefowl monitoring data 2010 to 2014

Grid	Grid Area (ha)	Total number of mounds visited (number of active mounds)									
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
03 - Cooltong	400	40(1)	40(0)	39(2)	40(0)	40(0)					
05 - Danggali 1	100	10(1)	8(1)	9(0)	9(1)	9(0)					
06 - Pooginook	400	33(0)	33(0)	33(0)	33(0)	33(0)					
07 - Bakara	400	56(1)	51(2)	51(6)	50(1)	51(4)					
08 - Shorts	250	41(1)	37(2)	37(2)	37(2)	37(1)					
09 - Chowilla	200	18(0)	15(1)	15(0)	16(1)	13(1)					
10 - Ferries McDonald	330	61(6)	44(5)	44(4)	44(3)	44(2)					
15 - Danggali 2	100	7(0)	5(0)	5(1)	5(0)	5(1)					
19 - Taylorville	800	NS	NS	NS	NS	25(0)					
35 - Taylorville W	400	NS	NS	NS	NS	9(0)					
36 - Taylorville E	7.5	NS	NS	NS	NS	3(0)					
44 - Peebinga	400	54(10)	47(9)	47(14)	47(5)	47(11)					
45 - Karte	400	24(0)	17(3)	20(4)	20(2)	20(2)					
46 - Billiatt	400	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS					
47/48/49 - Ngarkat	1200	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS					
52 - Gluepot 3	200	23(0)	23(0)	23(0)	19(0)	15(0)					
54 - Gluepot 5	200	16(0)	14(0)	14(1)	14(0)	14(0)					
56 - Gluepot 7	200	15(0)	12(0)	12(0)	12(0)	11(0)					
57 - Gluepot 8	200	10(1)	8(1)	8(1)	8(1)	8(0)					
59 - Gluepot 11	200	15(0)	12(0)	12(1)	12(1)	12(0)					
60 - Gluepot 12	200	15(0)	10(0)	10(0)	10(1)	10(1)					
63 - Gluepot 15	200	13(0)	11(0)	11(0)	11(0)	9(0)					
67 - Bandon	675	59(6)	47(4)	47(3)	47(0)	47(0)					
68 - Ettrick	155	24(2)	22(2)	20(4)	21(3)	21(2)					
69 - Murray Bridge AR	375	48(6)	42(8)	42(11)	42(10)	42(6)					
74 - Taylorville NW	400					6(2)					

NB: Prior to 2011 season some mounds on most grids were put onto a 5 yearly monitoring list (next due 2015) hence difference in no. visited.

NB: Some mounds have been added to the 5 year list as required from 2011 onwards in response to requests from data collectors.

1 mound missed

2 mounds missed

1 new mound found

1 mound missed & 1 new mound found

1 mound relocated



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