

## Mallee Fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) on Kangaroo Island.

By J. Sutton.

The following particulars of the introduction of the Mallee Fowl have been extracted from the Minutes of our Association. Other information has been supplied by members. It seems possible that the species is still alive about Kangaroo Beach, near Snug Cove, which is about 14 miles east of Harvey's Return:—

4th March, 1911: Minutes.—It was reported that Mr. J. W. Mellor had secured six Mallee Fowls, had kept them in captivity for a fortnight, and had taken them down in the "Governor Musgrave" and personally liberated them on the Reserve on Friday, 24th February, 1911, about a mile from Harvey's Return and about 13 miles from Cape Borda Lighthouse.

28th July, 1911: Minutes.—Mr. J. W. Mellor reported that he had seen the Mallee Fowls at Messrs. H. R. and F. R. Perry's selection at Cumbrutla Creek, near Mount Desperate, Hundred of Mangalo, Eyre Peninsula, so tame that they would feed like fowls near the "humpy," no fewer than nine being observed there at one time. As the Perrys were selling out, seven were caught, brought to Adelaide, housed a month at the Reedbeds, and taken by the "Governor Musgrave," and six were landed at Harvey's Return on 22nd July, 1911.

22nd December, 1911: Minutes.—Mr. J. W. Mellor reported that he had secured five more Mallee Fowls for Kangaroo Island. They were dispatched by the "Governor Musgrave," and the head lighthouse-keeper at Cape Borda, Mr. W. O. Wood, reported having liberated them near Harvey's Return on 17th December. The letter also stated that Mr. Nelson, the third keeper, had seen some of the previously-liberated birds about two miles from the place where they had been liberated.

28th June, 1912: Minutes.—It was reported that £39 12s. 6d. had been expended in two years in introducing Mallee Fowls to Kangaroo Island. Ten pounds of that was given by the South Australian Government, and the balance was collected from members and their friends. Eighteen birds were purchased in all.

29th May, 1914: Minutes.—Captain S. A. White reported that a Mallee Fowl had been caught in a snare, set for Wallabies, on the Reserve on Kangaroo Island.

Mr. F. E. Parsons advises that when he was on Kangaroo Island in November, 1914, he was informed that eggs had been taken from a Mallee Fowl's mound in the breeding season in 1914.

Dr. A. M. Morgan, on his visit to the island, 21st to 23rd May, 1926, obtained from Mrs. Edward Burgess, of Cygnet River, Kangaroo Island, the following particulars:—"She had seen four nests (or mounds) near Kangaroo Beach, Snug Cove, three years ago (in 1923). On one occasion she saw four birds and on another occasion two birds. One new nest was seen a year ago last March (i.e., in March, 1925), and she also saw two nests which had been rooted out by pigs, and another nest which had been burnt. On each of the above occasions she saw parts of eggshells at the nests. She also stated that about five years ago (in 1921) a young lady took some eggs from another mound and set them under a hen, without any result."

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