

4. Nymagee district—in the mallee on the Shuttleton road.
5. Gilgunnia, near Mt. Hope.

#### SUMMARY

The survey has revealed that the Mallee-fowl is not by any means extinct in New South Wales. It is not uncommon in the mallee country between the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan Rivers and north of the latter river to the Nyngan-Cobar railway.

It is not possible to form an estimate of the actual number of birds in the State.

The species has declined during the past fifty years owing to shrinkage of natural habitat, shooting for food and the depredations of foxes. At present the principal enemy of the Lowan is the fox.

A number of areas have been suggested as suitable for the creation of reserves but all are dependent on the elimination of foxes.

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**Extension of Varied Triller's Known Range.**—While holidaying at Harrington, at the mouth of the Manning River, northern New South Wales, in late December 1952, I was surprised to record six or more Varied Trillers (*Lalage leucomela*). They were feeding in a large fig tree in the midst of a thickly-timbered area adjacent to the coastal sand-dunes on each of three or four visits I made to that locality. They kept high in the tree whilst feeding and it was difficult to assess the numbers of males and females. All birds showed noticeable barred underparts and I thought they may have been all males as the first one recognized was much lower and clearly seen to be a male. However, I later found, when studying skins in the Australian Museum, that both sexes possessed the distinguishable under-barring, the females being possibly slightly more conspicuously marked.

I have been unable to find any previous recorded occurrence of this species from further south than the Clarence River. There does not seem to be any skins in the various Australian museums from as far south as the Manning River, which is approximately 180 miles south of the Clarence River.

The distance this species extends away from the coast in northern New South Wales might also be of interest. I have only seen it in two areas and on each occasion it was essentially coastal. Another matter for comment is the difference of habitat compared with the marked open forest association with its near relative, the White-winged Triller (*L. sueurii*). The coastal brush, where fig trees provide plenty of food, is apparently the habitat of the Varied Triller.—A. R. MCGILL, Arncliffe, N.S.W., 18/7/54.