

The ngannamurra or mallee hen has many and varied legends. In some districts it is very plentiful, in others it is a somewhat rare visitor. From one of the latter areas comes the following legend.

A nunga (man) went out hunting daily "nyidiri bina" (alone) and killed plenty baru, brought it home, made a fire, cooked it and made his wadhu (breakwind) and slept. Just before jindu ngalya bugganyi (sunrise) he heard someone singing very softly (bungara) :-

Nyinna gabbi gabbi bur ma lee
(Sit down water water on the stones in the shade)

Nyinna bur ma lee
(Sit down on the stones in the shade)

Nyinna gabbi gabbi.

Far away he heard it. He looked round but could not see anyone, and there were no tracks anywhere. He heard it again, but could not find out where it came from, so he went back to his kala (fire), cooked some more baru (meat), made his wadhu, and slept.

At sunrise again the song came,

Nyinna gabbi gabbi bur ma lee,

close up he heard it, but could not see anyone. He went quietly along towards a little warlba (hill) and saw a lot of munda (earth) just like wardu (wombat) making his hole. Nunga went up close and called out, "Hey, nunga, what are you doing?" but no one answered him and he went closer and closer until his shadow fell on the hole. The ngannamurra (Kalbin) came quickly out of it and rushed at him saying, "Ngo, ngo, ngo," and so frightened the nunga that he ran a long long way to another ngoora, and ngannamurra went back to her song and her building

Now she is a bird and sings her song quietly while she is making her buni (nest).