

VII 3a
[13]
THE LEGEND OF THE BELL BIRD (BARRIDAN)

The barradin has a long legend to itself. Wiana and nunga went out daily hunting for baru and mai (meat and vegetable food). "Kirridan, kirridan, kirridan," the wiana (women) sang when they went out for the day's hunting. Their nunga (men) went for baru and the wiana for mai. When the nunga had left them, the wiana put thagulu (wooden scoop), kadha (digging stick) and kala (firestick) all in one place and then began to dance and sing, "Kirridan, kirridan."

Moongauli (afternoon) came and they were still dancing. They were going yulbareri (south); when it was time to go back to camp, they danced up to bilda wiana (opossum women) who had plenty mai and got some from them and took it home, pretending that they had caught it themselves.

They did this many times (these women never bring home any baru) and at last nunga tracked them up and saw thagulu, kadha and kala all lying together. They went on further and the wiana saw them and took their kata gulu (head skin) (katta or kogga = head) off and sang, "Kirridan, kirridan," and put it on again, and took it off and put it on, while the nunga were coming along towards them. Nunga then sang out, "What are you doing here?" and all the women laughed and danced and took their gulu off and put it on, crying out, "Barradin, barradin, barradin," and they all changed into barradin (bell birds).