

M Y N A B I R D S - W H A T Y O U N E E D T O K N O W

The Indian Myna bird has been declared the second greatest threat to Australian native birds after land clearing.

Myna birds are found all throughout the Hunter, Central Coast and Mid North Coast region with larger populations found in the Gosford, Wyong, Lake Macquarie and Newcastle local government areas.

Did you know?

Myna birds are common on the east coast of Australia and thrive in disturbed or urban areas.

Where do they live?

Mynas enjoy open space, lawns, shrubs and tree cover. During the breeding season (September-March) Myna's will nest in hollows, artificial nest boxes, accessible roofs, eaves or building cavities.

In non breeding seasons, Myna's roost in communal sites and enjoy the dense foliage of exotic palms and conifers.

Did you know?

Myna's compete aggressively for nesting hollows, chasing away competitors and even throwing other birds' chicks out of the nest.

What do Indian Myna's eat?

The Myna has a varied diet and will eat insects, fruits, vegetables, pet food, poultry feed, stock feed, and most food scraps. The Myna is a very good scavenger and is able to learn from experience and from observation, and will return to sites where 'free' food is readily available. Myna's are known to feed on uncovered pet bowls, outdoor eating areas, fast food outlets, picnic areas and uncovered bins.



Indian or Common Myna Bird

Photo credit Rajiv Lather Birds of India

How do they impact on us?

- Indian Myna's are a threat to our native birds and animals due to aggressive behaviour and territorial defence.
- Myna's can spread bird mite and other disease.
- Large populations are found near food sources creating noise and fouling.

What can you do?

- Plant open canopied native species rather than exotic tree and palm species.
- Plant more native vegetation to encourage a diversity of native species.
- Bird-proof buildings and structures to seal off potential entry points.
- Remove any potential nesting areas or hollows.
- Always cover garbage or bin areas with a lid.
- Refrain from feeding any wildlife and do not leave food litter in public areas.
- Increase the frequency of cleaning around outdoor eating areas.
- Remove any uneaten pet food, or make sure it is covered and inaccessible.
- Restrict access for birds to poultry and stock feed.
- Consult a pest eradicator to remove nesting sites within buildings or structures.

What about Trapping?

Some Councils in the region have tried to use portable traps as a means of managing Myna birds. Unfortunately, these traps are not always successful.

They often trap non-target species, are very resource intensive and require appropriate euthanasia of the trapped birds.

Trapping has been found to have limited impact in areas of large populations of birds due to size constraints. The Myna bird is also able to learn to avoid traps, over time making this method ineffective.

An education and community information program is regarded as an effective way of managing the bird.

Don't be confused;

It is important to distinguish the pest Indian Myna from the common Noisy Miner. Noisy Miners are nectar-eating birds native to eastern Australia. Indian Mynas are predominantly brown with a black head. In flight, white wing patches are clearly visible. Noisy Miners are predominantly grey. They are protected and must be released if trapped.



Australian Native Noisy Myna

For More Information

Indian Myna Action Group Mid North Coast
www.indianmyna.org/

Central Coast Indian Myna Action Group
www.ccimag.asn.au/

WIRES Northern Rivers
www.wiresnr.org/noisyminer.htm

Birds Australia
www.birdsaustralia.com.au/

Backyard Buddies
www.backyardbuddies.net.au/



This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust



More Information

Contact your local Council.

CHOICES FOR THE FUTURE

Indian or Common Myna Birds



Photo Credit Andrew Tatnell, Big Island Photographics