

# Indian Mynas

## Do You Have Issues?



## Why are Indian Myna birds a problem?

The Common myna (Indian myna) is an introduced species that has become a pest wherever it has been released (Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia...). It is listed among the top 100 world's worst invasive species by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in 2000. In Australia, Common myna birds are considered to threaten native biodiversity due to their nest cavity competition.

- They aggressively compete with native fauna for nesting sites, reducing habitat for native birds. They threaten other birds, often mobbing them in large groups. They evict birds and mammals such as sugar gliders from their tree-hollow nests.
- They are voracious feeders, out-competing native birds like Kookaburras and Butcher Birds for food on the ground.
- They are prolific breeders, having up to 5 clutches of 4 eggs each per season, many more than our native species..



Indian Myna (Common myna)



Noisy Miner (*native*)

Mynas have yellow feet, chocolate coloured plumage and distinctive white patches on their wings that are clearly visible in flight; whereas miners have flesh-coloured

If current Common Myna populations are not addressed, then they will out-compete native birds and become the dominant bird species across our landscape. The only native birds likely to be seen will be crows, magpies and currawongs, and perhaps the native Noisy Miner, which also has territorial habits. Small birds like Willy Wagtails, Fairy Wrens and Pee-wees will have their chicks preyed upon, Butcher Birds and Kookaburras will starve, and most parrots (including cockatoos) will be driven away from nesting sites.

# How Do I Deal With Mynas

The “**Common Myna Humane Reduction Program**” is a community program in a number of council areas that creates community awareness of the impacts of the Common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*).

Cages are available to trap mynas, but these cages cannot be left in public areas and thus need to be sited in private yards near where mynas have been spotted.

Live trapped birds can either brought to your local environmental group partner for humane disposal, or they come to you and pick them up. The euthanasia method has been endorsed by RSPCA as humane.

If you are willing are to assist in removing the birds in problem areas, then please contact **Springfield Lakes Nature Care (SLNC)** at [info@springfieldlakesnaturecare.org.au](mailto:info@springfieldlakesnaturecare.org.au). The group will be able to supply a trap, assistance with setting-up, appropriate bait food (cat food), instructions for care of trapped birds, and they will come and remove the birds every few days until your area has been depopulated.

Mynas like tidy lawns, manicured hedges and hard surface areas, so creating a more bush like native garden will help keep them away. They are attracted to fruit trees, palms and pines. Removing pet food and covering compost bins will deter both mynas and miners.

Attract more native birds by offering water in bird baths, building myna-proof nesting boxes ([PDF available](#)) and planting local dense cover of native trees and shrubs - the most deterring habitat is dense tree canopies and thick shrubbery.

Sightings can be recorded on the Feralscan website

<https://www.feralscan.org.au/mynascan/>

