



hawkesbury indian myna action group - HIMAG

indian myna bird trapping help sheet

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The Hawkesbury Indian Myna Action Group has been formed by community members residing in the Hawkesbury. This help sheet is a guide for trapping Indian Mynas (developed by the group with assistance from the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc and Shoalhaven City Council).

Location of Trap

Traps are to be located on private land only. Considerations for trap placement are theft / vandalism, public safety and liability, public perception, access for dogs and cats, shade for trapped birds.

- Place the trap in a relatively open area or where birds already feed, if possible. Another good spot seems to be under power lines in an area where there are not people or animal traffic (eg behind the carport in the vegie patch).
- Bait the trap with a food the birds are accustomed to feeding on. Suburban feeding birds are used to pet food as many pet owners leave food out for their pets during the day. Using small dry dog and cat biscuits has been very successful as has VIP pet roll. Wet dog or cat food is not so nice in hot weather though.
- Do not use cereal and grain-based foods (birdseed and breadcrumbs etc) as this attracts non-target birds such as crested pigeons and parrots.
- Put a little loose feed outside the funnel entrances to attract Mynas to the area, in the tunnel, and inside the feeding chamber where the Mynas can see the food directly in front of them when they are in the tunnel. Put food in the larger containment chamber for captured birds, and provide fresh water.
- Loose feeding will attract the birds into your area. You should not over feed outside the trap, as this will not encourage the birds to enter the trap. Use loose feed only to encourage the birds to feed, not to feed them.
- Monitor daily to ensure bait and water are available while trapping and avoid going near the trap during daylight hours.
- Keep pets (particularly cats) away when trapping as the birds see cats and dogs as predators and are unlikely to approach the trap.
- Clean (hose down — if very badly fouled, use some vinegar and scrub down the trap). Relocate trap after the area becomes soiled from captured birds, as they don't appear to like being around their own excrement.
- Place newspaper or cardboard under the trap if using the trap on paved surfaces to avoid spoiling your pavements.
- Don't be disappointed if you don't catch birds every day. They are spasmodic in their movements, so keep at it. They may have moved to another food source in the area but will return if you keep feeding.
- If you keep a call bird in the containment chamber of your trap, this is likely to encourage others to the trap. This is not essential, and if you do this you must provide captive birds with food, water and shelter.
- Use gloves when handling live or dead birds as wild birds may carry bird mites.

Feedback

Please ensure you record the number of birds trapped on the Indian Myna Capture Data Spreadsheet and forward to your local coordinator.