

The Indian Myna

The Indian Myna is native to India and Southern China. It was introduced into Australia in 1862 to control insect pests in Melbourne market gardens. In 1883 it was taken to North Queensland, where it was thought it would control insect pests of sugar cane.



Colonies establish in urban areas, where food is plentiful and, from there, invade the surrounding countryside to the detriment of our native fauna.

Indian Mynas breed mainly in tree hollows, palms and under roofs. Anecdotal information suggests they reduce biodiversity by competing with our native species for nesting hollows, destroying their eggs and killing their chicks to commandeer nesting places.

It takes a minimum of 100 years for tree hollows to form. Because of this and the ongoing clearing of rural and urban land, competition from the Indian Myna for these limited hollows adds to the difficulties native animals face.



Indian Mynas breed from October to March, mate for life and can breed more than once a season.

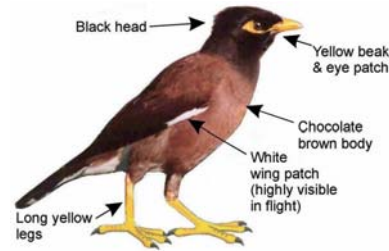
The large nests they build usually rot after they're vacated, making that tree hollow unusable by our native birds.

They also build dummy nests in adjacent hollows to protect a breeding territory.

Indian Mynas can also evict small mammals like Sugar Gliders from hollows. This usually means a death sentence for the gliders because they have nowhere else to go.

Correctly identify the Indian Myna

The introduced Indian Myna is sometimes confused with the Australian native Noisy Miner.



Indian Mynas are most often seen strutting around the ground looking for food scraps generally in places where humans gather and eat. School grounds, shopping centres, fast food outlets, outdoor eating areas, industrial areas, waste depots and BACKYARDS are some of their favourite haunts.

They gather noisily in large numbers to roost (sleep), usually in trees and palms, and on structures such as bridges.

Noisy Miner

The Noisy Miner is an Australian native and, as such is protected.

It is a honey eater and feeds on native flowering plants.



Deny Mynas feeding opportunities

Indian Mynas are opportunistic feeders. Ensure that food scraps, PET FOOD and other food such as livestock and poultry feed are not accessible to Mynas.



Avoid feeding native birds as Mynas will come looking for dropped pieces

Most experts agree that it is not good practice to feed native birds as it can harm their health when fed unsuitable food, impacts on their ability to forage for food, changes their behaviour and increases aggression, they suffer with hunger if you move or go on holidays, and it impacts on natural selection - just to name a few reasons! Now there is another reason to avoid this practice. Trying to feed the native birds only encourages and nurtures the Mynas, making them stronger, to breed faster and kill more of our native birds.



"Log on to www.birdsinbackyards.net and find out what you can do to help with the conservation of native birds in your backyard."

Deny Mynas breeding and roosting opportunities

Block off holes in roofs and eaves to prevent Mynas nesting in your home.

To an Indian Myna there is not much difference between a tree hollow and a hole in your eaves. If they do build a nest in your roof, not only is it helping increase their population but it puts your health at risk from a bird mite invasion.



Plant natives to prevent Mynas breeding and roosting in exotic trees and palms

Indian Mynas love non-native palm trees and other exotics, it appears, because they offer more closed in protection from potential predators than the more open nature of Australian natives. Planting natives including more understorey for small native birds such as blue wrens, also encourages native birds and prevents Mynas from establishing dominance in an area.



Hawkesbury Community Indian Myna Action Group - HIMAG

HIMAG is a coordinated community project to improve the biodiversity of the Hawkesbury area through community education and humane control of Indian Myna Birds.

Hawkesbury now has several volunteer coordinators for most towns and villages to assist with coordinating trapping activities. Contact Council's Bushcare Officer on 4560 4444 to obtain the details of the coordinator in your area.

An educative approach is needed to encourage the community to take action and share ideas learned from observation, research and trapping.

- Network and share solutions with your neighbours to raise awareness about our environment
- Log on to www.birdsinbackyards.net and find out what you can do to help with the conservation of native birds in your backyard.
- Keep up with the latest research and innovations by accessing websites about Myna birds. Available by going to: <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/enviro-mental-services/natural-environment/indian-myna-control-program-himag>

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INDIAN MYNA BIRDS

Actions to Protect our Native Wildlife



Participate in the Hawkesbury Indian Myna Action Group.

Project facilitated by:

