

What is being done to control Indian Mynas in Goulburn?

The Goulburn Indian Myna Bird Action Group (GIMBAG) has developed a number of strategies to tackle these introduced pests.

These include:

- raising public awareness that mynas are an environmental and health threat, not just a nuisance
- provide community information on how to reduce their feeding, roosting and breeding opportunities, and

- a humane trapping program.

The trapping program is based on humane principles from the RSPCA and NSW Department of Primary Industries. GIMBAG is basing its model on the successful Canberra Myna Action group, who have removed over 69,000 pests in 12 years, restoring balance to their native wildlife.

GIMBAG has the support of regional Myna Action groups, as well as support from Lachlandcare, Local Land Services NSW, and other local conservation groups.

GIMBAG is also running workshops for the community to learn about how to identify, manage, and remove Indian Mynas in their back yard.

Please do not interfere with any traps that you might see in people's yards. They are doing something very important for our environment.



What is the Goulburn Indian Myna Bird Action Group?

The Goulburn Indian Myna Bird Action Group (GIMBAG) is a non-profit community action group hosted by LachLandcare Inc that has the aim of protecting our native birds and mammals from the threat posed by the introduced Indian Myna (or Common Myna) in the Goulburn region.

For More Information:



Goulburn Indian Myna Bird Action Group

W: lachlandcare.org.au/projects/goulburnmyna

E: goulburnmyna@lachlandcare.org.au

'You can have native birds or Indian Mynas – but not both.'

Ian Fraser – local naturalist and
2006 Natural History Medallion winner

Support: The Goulburn Indian Myna Bird Action Group (GIMBAG) is hosted by LachLandcare Inc. Initial funding to establish this project was provided by the Department of Primary Industries (NSW) and Landcare NSW through funding received from the Managing Established Pest Animals and Weeds (MEPAW) initiative which is part of the Australian Government's Agricultural Competitive White Paper for stronger farmers and a stronger economy.



Goulburn Indian Myna Bird Action Group

GIMBAGDL0919

Indian Myna

the
flying cane toad



Why is this bird bad news for Australia's native birds and small animals?



Why is the Indian Myna such a problem?

The World Conservation Union has included the Indian Myna in the list of the 100 most invasive species in the world and they have been described as an extreme threat to an extreme threat to Australia's environment.

Indian Mynas:

- are one of the most invasive animal species in the world
- take over nesting hollows, evicting birds and small mammals, and prey on nestlings pose some small human health risk, and
- the nesting material they bring into roof cavities, under solar panels and other spaces in buildings can be a fire hazard.
- are noisy, aggressive and not afraid of humans
- during breeding season, take over nesting hollows, harassing and evicting native birds and animals that use the hollows
- kill the chicks of other birds or destroy their eggs
- block the entries to hollows, causing the inhabitants to die of starvation, after which they then lay their eggs in the hollow
- can raise two broods of young every year, and
- spend their nights in noisy communal roosts.

Indian mynas can create fire risks in buildings through making large scrappy nests in roofs from sticks and any available rubbish they find.

They also hang around restaurants and cafes, walking all over tables in search of scraps of food. They also forage in open rubbish bins – so it isn't hard to see the potential public health risk they pose.

Where did they come from?

Indian Mynas occur naturally in southern Asia. They have been introduced into South Africa, North America, the Middle East, Australia and New Zealand.

Indian Mynas were brought into Melbourne market gardens in the 1860s to keep down insects. They were then taken to Cairns and other places in far north Queensland to control insects in cane fields. They failed to control insect pests!

They adapt easily to human, urban and rural landscapes. Intelligent and aggressive, Mynas are now often the predominant bird in urban areas all along the east coast of Australia.

What do they look like?

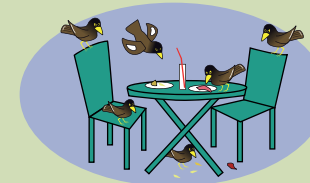


Indian Mynas:

- are medium sized chocolate brown with a black head and neck
- are about 15 cm tall
- have a yellow beak, eye patch, feet and legs
- have white wing patches which are obvious when the birds are flying
- strut rather than walk.

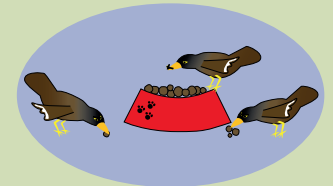
What can I do about them?

You can help by taking the following steps to limit food and nesting sites:



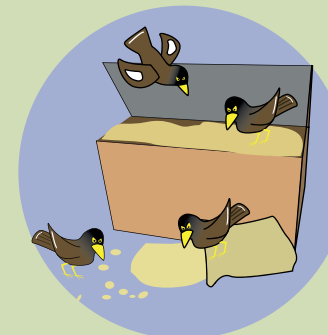
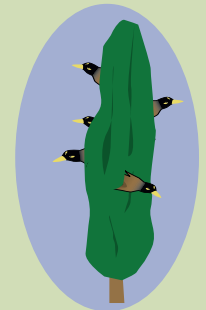
Don't feed them. Clear away food scraps when eating outdoors.

Feed pets indoors, or clear away when they've finished.



Block holes in roofs or eaves to prevent Mynas from nesting – make sure you don't accidentally imprison a possum, bat or other native animal.

Avoid planting trees with dense foliage (such as pencil pines) which Mynas will use for roosting at night. Plant more native shrubs to reduce open areas in gardens.



On farms and rural properties, feed stock only as much as they need, cover the feed bins and clean up any spills.