**CORRECT IDENTIFICATION OF INDIAN MYNA BIRDS**

The introduced Indian Myna bird is sometimes confused with the Australian native Noisy Miner — a much less destructive animal. Here’s how to tell the difference:

**INTRODUCED INVADER: INDIAN MYNA**

Indian Myna birds are most often seen strutting around the ground looking for food, generally in places where humans gather and eat. They are opportunistic scavengers and will eat almost anything that is easy to find. This is why they are sometimes referred to as ‘rats of the sky’. They gather noisily in large numbers to roost (sleep), often in non-native trees and palms.

**DESCRIPTION:** BLACK HEAD, YELLOW BEAK AND EYE PATCH, CHOCOLATE BROWN BODY, WHITE WING PATCH (HIGHLY VISIBLE IN FLIGHT), LONG YELLOW LEGS

**AUSTRALIAN NATIVE: NOISY MINER**

The Noisy Miner is a small gregarious honeyeater, most often seen feeding on native plants, eating insects and nectar from the flowers. It is aggressive enough to frighten away cats and other predators, but timid enough to be frightened of humans. It is an Australian native and, as such, is protected.

Unlike the introduced Indian Myna, the Noisy Miner does not kill other native birds or mammals.

**DESCRIPTION:** BLACK HOOD, PALE GREY FEATHERS, WHITE COAT, YELLOW BEAK AND EYE PATCH, FLESH COLOURED LEGS, LONGER TAIL

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**WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP**

By following a few simple tips, you can turn your backyard from an Indian Myna bird retreat into a native bird haven!

Limit feeding opportunities for Indian Myna birds by:
- disposing or composting food scraps
- covering or moving pet food that would otherwise be exposed to the birds during the day. Exposed pet food, such as dog or cat biscuits are a favoured food source for these birds
- planting native species in your gardens, as this encourages native birds to call your backyard home. Indian Myna birds favour exotic vegetation; especially cocos palm trees, which they use for food, nesting and protection.

Limit backyard nesting opportunities by:
- identifying and patching up any holes or possible nesting places these birds utilise around your house and/or carport
- encouraging the nesting of native birds in any suitable trees or hollows in your garden.

**SPREAD THE WORD**

Tell your friends and neighbours about the impacts that Indian Myna birds are inflicting on our native wildlife and the risk they pose to human health and the environment.

Report sightings of Indian Myna Birds in your area online at www.feralscan.org.au/mynascan

**USEFUL LINKS**

- campbelltown.nsw.gov.au
  Information on Council’s Indian Myna bird action program in association with Campbelltown Men’s Sheds
- feralscan.org.au/mynascan
  Record Indian Myna bird sightings in your area
- birdsinbackyards.net
  Information about native birds in backyards

**CONTACT**

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The Campbelltown Indian Myna Bird Action Program

Council sponsors an Indian Myna Bird Action Program in partnership with local Men’s Sheds. The program aims to reduce the effects of Indian Myna birds within the region and their impacts on human health and the environment by:

- raising public awareness about Indian Myna birds
- providing the community with educational information about how to reduce feeding, roosting and breeding opportunities
- providing training to community members on how to effectively trap and humanely euthanise Indian Myna birds based on methods that are acceptable to the community, Government and animal welfare authorities
- offering residents the opportunity to purchase effective Indian Myna bird traps on completion of a community education workshop
- working cooperatively with other councils, agencies and local organisations to better understand Indian Myna bird education and control programs.

How Can You Be Involved?

Interested community members can participate in the Indian Myna Bird Action Program by attending a short workshop where you will learn about the Indian Myna’s effects on human health and the environment, effective trapping methods, animal welfare protocols, humane euthanasia as well as other methods to discourage Indian Myna birds in your area. For further information, or to register for one of our workshops, call 4645 4000 or visit www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/IndianMyna

Following attendance at a workshop, participants will have the opportunity to purchase an Indian Myna bird trap, tailor-made by one of our local Men’s Sheds. You can also get involved by recording the sightings of Indian Myna birds in your area and registering your findings at www.feralscan.org.au/mynascan

How can you be involved?

The Indian Myna

Originally native to India, the Indian Myna bird was introduced to Australia during the late 1800s to control insects in market gardens. They then spread rapidly throughout Australia, following the expansion of agriculture and urban development.

Environmental Effects

Indian Myna birds pose a threat to the long term survival of many of our native birds and animals and are considered as a concern for biodiversity at a global level. They commonly compete with native birds and animals that nest in tree hollows, impacting on the lifecycle of native species that depend on these areas for breeding and habitat. Unlike our native birds, Indian Mynas breed more than once each season. The large nests they build rot after they’ve vacated, making that tree hollow unsuitable for native species to nest in.

Public Health Risks

Indian Myna birds commonly nest in roofs of houses, where their accumulated droppings and mites can encourage disease. Bites from bird mites can cause skin irritation, and if inhaled can contribute to asthma and hay fever. The messy and unhygienic lifestyle of the Indian Myna is evident at popular roost and feeding sites such as school grounds, shopping centres, fast food outlets and outdoor eating areas. With poor hygiene and a scavenging lifestyle, Indian Mynas are similar to rats and cockroaches in their potential to spread disease and impact human health.

Noise from Indian Myna bird roosts, at pre-dawn and at dusk, can also result in considerable distress and sleep deprivation for people living close to a roost site.