



What can we do?

Reduce available food source

- Refrain from feeding wild birds.
- Do not leave uneaten pet food outside, feed pets indoors where possible.
- Do not leave food scraps in picnic areas, school grounds or at sporting ovals.
- Prevent access to poultry and stock feed.

Reduce available habitat

- Prevent nesting through blocking holes in roofs and eaves, and regularly checking nest boxes.
- Reduce open grassy areas in gardens through planting native shrubs. Allow lawn grasses to grow to a length that restricts their ability to hunt for insects.
- Find and destroy nests.

Get involved in a trapping program

- A local trapping program in the Tweed and Byron Local Government Areas is currently underway using specialised traps to humanely catch Indian Mynas.
- Ring the Hotline to register for loan of an Indian Myna trap free of charge. Free euthanasia for trapped birds is available at strategic locations throughout the region. Assistance and advice is also available on other humane methods of Indian Myna control.
- If you would like to make your own trap, request that the blue print of the trap can be sent out to you. To view the recommended PeeGee trap design online, visit www.indianmynaaction.org.au.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Call the Tweed and Byron Indian Myna Hotline for more information on the trapping program or to report sightings of large flocks of Indian Mynas in Tweed or Byron LGAs.

If you are not a resident of Tweed or Byron, call the Hotline for information on programs that may be running in your region.

HOTLINE
(02) 6670 2778

Email:
indianmyna@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Funded by NSW Environmental Trust and NSW Lands and Property Management Authority.



Adapted from the pamphlet developed by the Mid North Coast Indian Myna Project. Designed by MIRA Design Studio. Printed September 2009, on 100% Recycled Envirocare paper, made from 75% post consumer waste & 25% pre-consumer waste.



INDIAN MYNA

Managing the invasion of Indian Mynas in Tweed and Byron Local Government Areas

MANAGING THE INVASION OF INDIAN MYNAS

Indian Mynas are listed as
"One of the World's 100
Most Invasive Species"
(World Conservation Union)

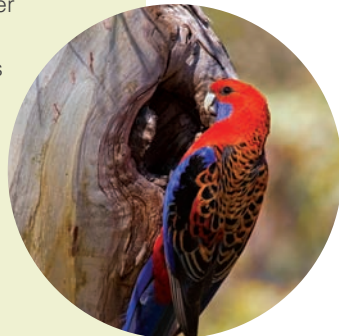
Indian Myna Profile

The Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) was introduced to Australia from southern Asia in the late 1860's and has now established along the eastern coast of Australia. Throughout their natural and introduced range, Indian Mynas occur alongside humans, and thrive in the habitats that we create, such as urban and agricultural areas. They rarely colonise areas of closed forest and undisturbed bushland, but have been recorded as utilising areas of open woodland.

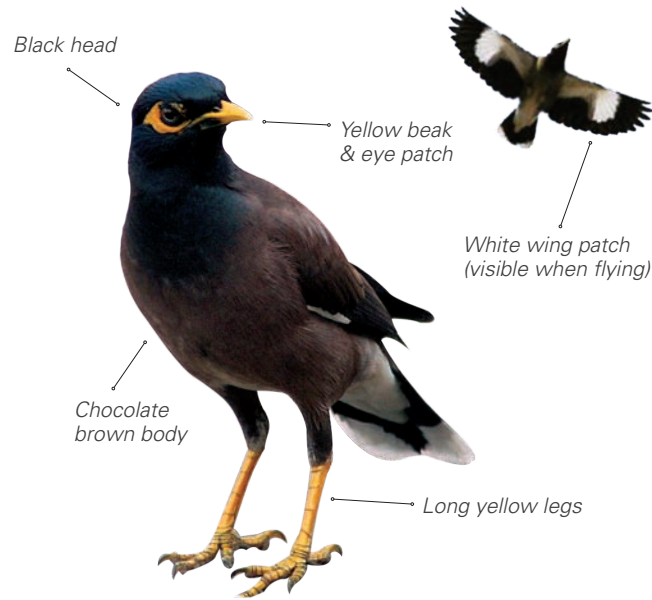
Indian Mynas are able to utilise a wide range of food types, and populations build up around reliable sources of food. In urban areas you will commonly see them foraging around school yards, on house lawns and playing fields, or in backyards eating pet food. In agricultural areas they can be found at recently turned/slashed paddocks, at stock feed bins, chicken pens or following cattle. Indian Mynas roost communally over night with all the Mynas from the local area. These roost sites can house a huge number of birds.

Why are they a problem?

- Extremely aggressive and territorial. Out-competes native wildlife for food, shelter and nesting sites e.g. Rosellas for nesting hollows.
- Nests can block down-pipes from roof gutters, causing water damage to buildings. Nests under eaves and in roof cavities are a potential fire hazard and provide an entry point for bird mites to infest houses.
- Carry exotic varieties of bird mite that are transferable to humans, poultry and native bird species.
- Fouling around nest and large roost sites are a potential environmental health risk.
- Cause damage to fruit (particularly soft fruits) and grain crops, and exploit and foul stock feed.



INDIAN MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*) Introduced pest



What do they look like?

The Indian Myna is a chocolate brown bird, about 12cm tall. It has a yellow beak, eye patch and legs. White wing patches are also obvious when birds are flying.



Not to be confused with the Native Noisy Miner

The native Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*) is sometimes mistaken for the Indian Myna. The Noisy Miner also has a yellow beak and eye patch, but has flesh coloured legs. The key difference between the two birds is that the Indian Myna has a brown body, whilst the Noisy Miner is mottled grey and white.

NOISY MINER (*Manorina melanocephala*) Native bird



The Noisy Miner is a honeyeater and has a much more limited diet. It prefers to forage for nectar and sap sucking insects.