Indian Mynas originated in Southern Asia and were introduced to Australia in the late 1860’s. They are now establishing on the North Coast. If left unchecked they will quickly breed into large flocks which kill or displace many of our native birds and animals.

**Description**

The Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) is a medium sized bird, about 12 cm tall, with a black head and neck and a chocolate brown coloured body. It has a yellow eye patch and yellow feet and legs. White wing patches are obvious when the birds are flying.

**Behaviour**

Populations of Indian Mynas build up around reliable sources of food. They feed on the ground, rather than in trees, and are often sighted in small family groups. Indian Mynas are very adaptable and will eat a wide variety of foods, however they have a preference for lawn insects, pet food, stock and poultry feed, and food scraps. At night they congregate to sleep in noisy communal roosts under bridges, in dense trees and palms or in empty buildings. In rural areas they build up populations around poultry pens, stock feed bins and dairy sheds. In urban areas they frequent house yards with short lawns and/or pet food left out, sporting fields and schools. In urban areas they frequent open green spaces such as sporting fields, schools and vacant land. Indian Mynas are extremely aggressive, destroying eggs and chicks of other birds, and pushing native birds out of their natural habitat. Indian Mynas create fire hazards through building nests under roof eaves and in roof cavities, and can transfer bird mites to human inhabitants of the house. Large roost sites in urban areas create environmental health issues through fouling.

**Not to be confused with native Noisy Miner**

Noisy Miners are native honeyeaters. As with most honeyeaters, Noisy Miners are territorial, and protect their territory with their loud scolding call. Whilst they both have a yellow eye patch, you can easily tell feral Indian Mynas and native Noisy Miners apart, as Indian Mynas have a chocolate brown body, and Noisy Miners have a grey body.

**Trapping Program**

A local trapping program in the Tweed and Byron Local Government Area is currently underway using specialised traps to humanely catch Indian Mynas. These are on loan free of charge. You can also report the locations of any Indian Myna colonies or roost sites in your area.

**What can I do?**

Restrict Indian Mynas access to food by: putting away pet food during the day, refraining from leaving food out for wild birds, and allowing lawns to grow to a length that restricts Indian Mynas ability to hunt for insects. Prevent their access to nest sites by blocking holes in roofs and eaves, and regularly checking nest-boxes. Borrow a trap and catch some Indian Mynas!!