



Indian (Common) Myna

Intruder in the Weddin District

Indian (Common) Myna are considered one of the world's most invasive species and a threat to our native wildlife. They were introduced to Australia in the late 1860s to control insects in market gardens. Until recently, these birds were rarely seen in the Weddin Shire; however, large flocks are now being reported across our district.

The problem

Indian Myna (not to be confused with the native Noisy Miner) are aggressive birds that can congregate in large numbers, displace native wildlife and pose a potential health threat. They are opportunistic birds that will eat almost anything and are not afraid to inhabit urban scenes.

They are notoriously messy birds and play host to parasites, mites and avian disease (some of which may be communicable to humans). Indian Myna displace native animals by evicting other creatures from their nests and eating the eggs of native birds.



Indian Myna (left) vs. Noisy Miner (right).

Why is this bird pestering us?

Clearing of vegetation resulting in open spaces and the replacement of native plant species with exotic plants that have denser foliage, such as palms and conifers, favours the establishment of Indian Myna.

High densities of Indian Myna are also encouraged by easy access to 'free food' in the urban environment such as leftover pet food, seed in bird feeders, uncovered compost and garbage bins, grain spills as well as human food scraps being left around outdoor eating areas.

Control options

Passive control measures include limiting access to easy food sources, modifying the environment to reduce nesting opportunities in buildings and replacing thick foliated exotic vegetation with local native plant species. Active control measures include trapping, removal of nests and eggs and shooting.

What can you do to help?

- Don't leave seed or other food out for native birds – plant native trees and shrubs for food sources instead!
- Feed pets indoors or in an enclosed area and clean up leftovers.
- Clean up grain spills and livestock food leftovers.
- Cover your compost and garbage bins.
- Bag horse manure to ensure Myna don't feed on it.
- Block potential nesting holes in roofs and eaves.
- Replace dense foliated exotic plants such as palms and conifers with native species.
- Buy a trap specifically designed for Indian Myna (see below) and help actively reduce the population. Significant localised reductions in Indian Myna numbers can be achieved by intensive community volunteer trapping programs.



Weddin Landcare has peegee traps for sale for \$60 thanks to the Dubbo Indian Myna Control Program, run by the Dubbo Environment Group. If you would like to purchase one, please get in touch!

Find out more at weddinlandcare.com.au



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