



***Indian
Myna
Birds
in
Fairfield***

Feral animal control in NSW

Control of feral animals, including the Indian Myna bird (*Acridotheres tristis*), in NSW is the responsibility of the land owner/occupier.

Indian Myna Distribution

Indian Mynas are native to Southern Asia.

In 2000 the Indian Myna was placed on the world's worst 100 invasive species by the International Union of Conservation.

Indian Mynas were first introduced into Australia as a biological control for market gardeners in Melbourne to control pest species such as caterpillars. Mynas were also introduced into Northern Queensland to control the cane beetle and locusts.

The current distribution of the Indian Myna in Australia is across Eastern Australia. However they have the potential to spread further through Australia.

Indian Myna Ecology

Indian Mynas are highly adaptable birds making them the ideal invasive species.

The Indian Myna is a medium sized bird to around 26cm in height. They are a brown bird with a black head, bright yellow bill, legs and patch of skin around the eye. They are omnivores.

They can be found in large groups around cleared agricultural lands, open grass lands, urban park lands, backyards and town centres.

They nest in hollows, which can become a problem as they displace Australian native birds. They also nest in ceilings, walls and awnings and attack other bird species. They can breed 1-3 times per year and roost in flocks between 40 to 80 in Australia.

They live for about 10 years.

Potential problems:

The Indian Myna spreads Priority Weeds such as lantana, African Olive and Cestrum.

They reduce access to nesting hollows for native parrot species. Indian Myna have been recorded having several nesting sites without using every nest. This reduces the available nesting hollows for native species of birds, but also possums and gliders. They have been known to kill small native mammals.

Indian Myna populations can also act as a reservoir for diseases of native birds such as avian malaria.

Indian Mynas roosting in large flocks at night generate noise complaints in suburban areas.

They can also cause dermatitis, allergies, and asthma in humans when they are nesting in the roofs of houses.

Potential fire risk when nesting in roof cavities.

How can residents help to control Indian Myna birds in Fairfield

Only place out the amount of dog or cat food that your pet consumes in one sitting.

Put leftover food in a sealed bag in a closed bin, don't leave leftover food in parks or reserves or in uncovered compost heaps in the back yard.

DO NOT FEED ANY BIRDS as this will attract the Indian Myna bird and other vermin such as rats.

Put pet's water bowls inside.

Block all entrances to roof cavities, place gutter guards in gutters to stop them entering.

Install bird mesh to prevent birds coming into outdoor living areas.

Plant locally indigenous plant species to encourage native birds.

Australian Native birds that can be mistaken

The Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*) an Australian native honeyeater is often mistaken for the Indian Myna.



Noisy Miner Bird

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