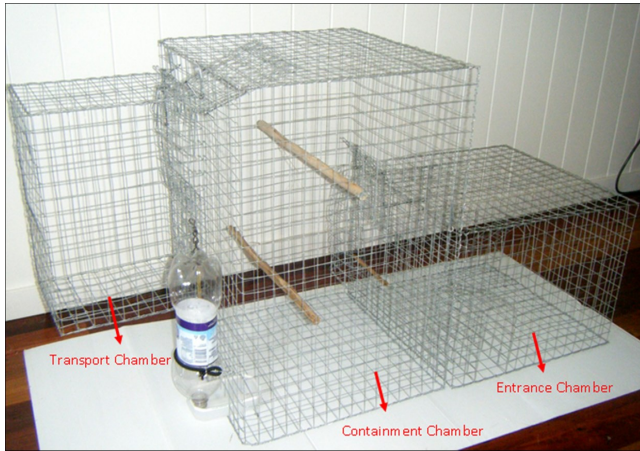




Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee (B4C)

Trapping cages can be borrowed from B4C.

The cage consist of 2 parts: a trapping and holding cage, and a transport cage. It is vital that water and shade is provided during the caging of the bird. The workings of the cage setup are explained further in our workshops, including attracting the bird.



B4C Sustainability Centre and Office

Cnr Wright St (gate entry) and 1358 Old Cleveland Road, Carindale, 4152

Phone: 07 3398 8003

E-mail: researcher@bulimbacreek.org.au

Website: www.bulimbacreek.org.au

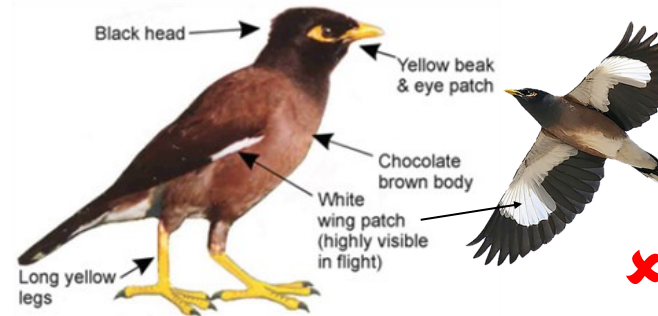


Correct Identification

The introduced Common Myna is sometimes confused with the slightly larger Australian Noisy Miner. Although both species have similar names, the **Common Myna is brown with a black head and in flight it shows large white wing patches. The Noisy Miner is mostly grey.**

Introduced Invader: Common Myna ✘

Common Mynas are most often seen strutting around the ground looking for food, generally in places where humans gather and eat. School grounds, shopping centres, fast food outlets and outdoor eating areas are some of their favourite feeding sites. They are opportunistic scavengers and will eat almost anything that is easy to get at. They gather noisily in large numbers to roost, often in non-native trees and palms.



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 under the Nature Conservation Act.** Unlike the introduced Common Myna, the Noisy Miner does not kill other native birds or mammals.



Cover and top banner photos courtesy Terence Alexander

THE COMMON MYNA BIRD



AN URBAN PEST

A RISK TO OUR NATIVE WILDLIFE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Common Myna Humane Reduction Program

Managed by
The Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee
Supported by Brisbane City



Why are they a problem?

Common Mynas are ranked as **one of the world's 100 most invasive species** and have been assigned an **extreme threat** category for Australia.

(International Union for Conservation of Nature)

The Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), also known as Indian Myna, was intentionally introduced to Australia from southern Asia in the late 1860s to control insects in the fields around Melbourne. The population rapidly established along the east coast.

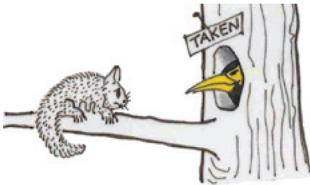


Mynas displace our Native Wildlife

Common Mynas are **extremely competitive** and easily outcompete native wildlife for food and nesting hollows. They thrive in areas with reduced biodiversity where they compete for hollows with native birds, destroying their eggs and chicks and stopping them from breeding.



Mynas raise their fast growing chicks on a range of insects and small reptiles, competing directly with Kookaburras, Magpies and Peewees during the breeding season.



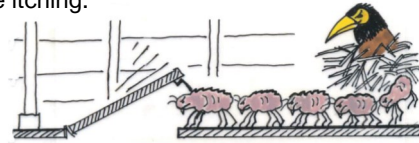
Unlike our native birds, Common Mynas breed more than once a season. The large nests they build is filled with plastic, tinfoil and lolly wrappers, making that tree hollow unusable again by our natives.

Public health risk

Common Mynas build untidy nests heavily infested with bird mites. The large amounts of nesting materials used by Mynas can:

- **Create a fire risk in roof cavities in buildings**
- **Block down-pipes and roof gutters with their nests causing flooding in buildings**
- **Provide an ideal environment for mites to thrive**

These parasitic mites often migrate to the interior of a house, through gaps in walls and ceilings and will often attack people in bed. A bird mite invasion can cause severe irritation, rashes and intense itching.



Common Mynas also:

- Pose a risk to human health through concentrated fouling at roost sites and scavenging food, **spreading avian borne diseases** such as Salmonella and other viruses.
- **Harass pets and steal their food.**
- Make **very loud noise** at roosts at pre-dawn and dusk.
- **Love resting under roofs of decks and on deck furniture, creating a mess on barbeque and deck furniture.**

What you can do to help

Community and local government action can make a difference. Common Myna bird populations can be reduced and prevented from spreading into new areas.

- Join or form a community action group in your local area to trap Common Myna birds.
- Prevent Common Myna birds from becoming established or spreading further.
- Record sightings, damage and control activities in ebird.
- Correctly identify the Common Myna. It is sometimes mistaken for the Australian native Noisy Miner (see back of brochure).

Help prevent the Myna bird invasion !

About the Common Myna Humane Reduction Program

The 'Common Myna Humane Reduction Program' is a Brisbane program that creates community awareness of Common Myna impacts. Volunteers build cages and participants trap Common Myna birds in their backyards. Live birds are brought to B4C for humane disposal. This program has been endorsed by RSPCA.

Trapping in your backyard

You can borrow a cage from us to start trapping in your own backyard. You will need to attend a Common Myna workshop before starting any trapping.

Take other Positive Actions

- Reduce availability of food sources by not leaving pet food or compost uncovered.
- Ensure there are no gaps in roof tiles, barge boards or eaves as Mynas will try to take up living in these areas
- Plant open canopied native trees rather than exotic tree and palm species.
- If Mynas are nesting in a couple of particular trees, selectively thin the branches at the top of the tree to let more light in—they seem to dislike this and often move on.
- Discuss prevention techniques with neighbours as doing one property in isolation is not as effective.

Record your sightings

Map sightings at: www.ebird.org



ebird.org is a real-time, online checklist program, which allows professional and recreational birders to record and analyse sightings from all over the world. If you have seen these birds in your area or in your travels, you could help us by recording and sharing your sightings with us.

Images courtesy: Central Coast Indian Myna Action Group, Wollongong City Council, Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre and Biosecurity South Australia, ebird.