

# HASTINGS - MACLEAY INDIAN MYNA CONTROL PROJECT

Community working together to help reduce the impacts of the Indian Myna



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## Monitoring the Myna Menace

Thank you for your interest in helping reduce populations of Indian Mynas, which are a major pest and threat to native fauna.

In order to place the traps in the most effective areas and to monitor the impacts trapping has on Myna populations it is necessary to gather information through a monitoring process.

### Monitoring Mynas

You should aim to monitor 3 days within the week so that you can get an average snapshot of the birds behaviour.

The best time of the day is 3 hours after sunrise (check the BOM website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) for times). Ideally not when it is foggy, very windy or raining.

Each observation should take 20 minutes.

If you are unable to monitor in the mornings dusk is another good time to monitor as it is an important time to observe nesting/roosting behaviours/ sites or final migration flows to other areas/colony groups. Otherwise just make sure it is at about the same time of day each survey.

### How big an area?

Sit in your yard and record the Mynas within a 100m radius of your house. This will give an area of about 2Ha. Once you have decided on an area, you will need to measure it as accurately as possible and stick to it. Record all the Mynas you see or hear on the road, nature strips and front gardens, back yards and house roofs.

### What to record.

- 1. Your information.** This is important so that we can contact you about developments in the program. This information will not be shared with any other organisation.
- 2. Site details.** Accurate site details are important so that we can map the location of Myna populations. It also gives us a snapshot of the type of environment they are preferring.
- 3. Sighting Information.**
  - It is important to record the date and time of day so that the survey can be duplicated later.
  - **Myna numbers.** Count by pairs to get an accurate 'guesstimate' and try to record specific numbers wherever possible.
  - **Feeding / social behaviours.** Record observed behaviours and add any specific notes – e.g. 60% time spent chasing native birds / 30% squabbling etc.
  - **Length of establishment** – How long have you noticed Indian Mynas in your area? - this helps us to see where the populations are travelling.
  - **Native species.** We would like to record *numbers* of eastern and Crimson Rosellas present as these are competing directly with Indian Mynas for nest hollows. It is also important to have a go at identifying any native birds that are in the area and note down their presence. By having this information we will be able to compare results after the trapping has been done.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET TO THE INDIAN MYNA PROJECT OFFICER**



# Indian Myna Sighting Sheet



Please use a different sighting sheet for each location where you are observing Mynas.

**The Indian Myna is an introduced pest**



## Identification of Indian Mynas

- Sturdy cocoa-brown body, black head and throat
- White wing patch, obvious in flight
- Yellow bill, legs and around eye
- 23-25 cms in length
- Often forages on the ground, walks with exaggerated swagger

Do not confuse with Native Miner (“squeakers”; mostly grey, with no white in wing)

1. Your information									
Name:									
Address:									
Phone:				E.mail:					
I can assist with:	Sightings/monitoring		Trapping birds		Euthanasia			Transport of traps	
	Trap manufacture		other						
I would like to go on the trap waiting list	Yes		No						
2. Site information									
Location of sighting:	eg. Property address, map reference. Name of park, golf course, school etc. Distance and direction along road or river to nearest corner, landmark or feature, or mud map.								
Type of location (circle)	Urban Garden		Urban Open Space			Rural residential			
	Farm		Bush			Other:			
What resources do Mynas have access to at this site?(circle)	Animal feed (pet or stock)	Water	Food scraps	Dense vegetation	Tree hollows	Nest boxes	Roof cavity	Other:	
3. Sighting Information									
Sighting Dates:					Time of Day:				
Number of mynas sighted at this location	Please circle most appropriate answer								
	Day 1	1-2	2-10	10-20	20+	Exact Count:			
	Day 2	1-2	2-10	10-20	20+	Exact Count:			
	Day 3	1-2	2-10	10-20	20+	Exact Count:			
What was the birds behaviour	Day 1	Chasing Natives	Squabbling	Feeding	Roosting	Nesting	Other		
	Day 2	Chasing Natives	Squabbling	Feeding	Roosting	Nesting	Other		
	Day 3	Chasing Natives	Squabbling	Feeding	Roosting	Nesting	Other		
When did you first notice Indian Mynas	Less than 6 months		6-12 months		12 months+			Unsure	
Please list other birds observed at this site.	Crimson Rosellas		Red Browed finch		Silvereye		Spotted pardalote		
	Eastern Rosellas		King Parrot		Magpie		Australian Raven		
	Noisy miner		Galah		Red Wattlebird		Butcherbird sp?		
	Rainbow lorikeet		Crested Pigeon		Little Wattlebird		Grey fantail		
	Laughing Kookaburra		Pied currawong		Sulphur Crested Cockatoo		Yellow tailed black cockatoo		
	Superb Fairy Wren		Noisy Friarbird		Magpie lark (peewee)		New Holland Honeyeater		
	Grey Fantail		Eastern Spinebill		Eastern Yellow Robin		Owl sp		
	Wood Duck		House sparrow		Starlings		Spotted Turtle Dove		