

# BELLO BIO BLOG

NO 7

## COMMON MYNA

### ACRIDOTHERES TRISTIS

The Common Myna, was introduced into Australia in the late 1860s to control insects in market gardens, but has since become established in urban centres and rural settings along the Eastern seaboard.

They have become a threat to wildlife who rely on hollows for breeding due to their aggressive nesting and territorial behaviour.

Common Mynas can also have human health impacts when they form large colonies, as they may cause mite infestations, and can carry disease.

The Common Myna is listed by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) as one of the worlds top 100 most invasive species, of which only 3 are birds.

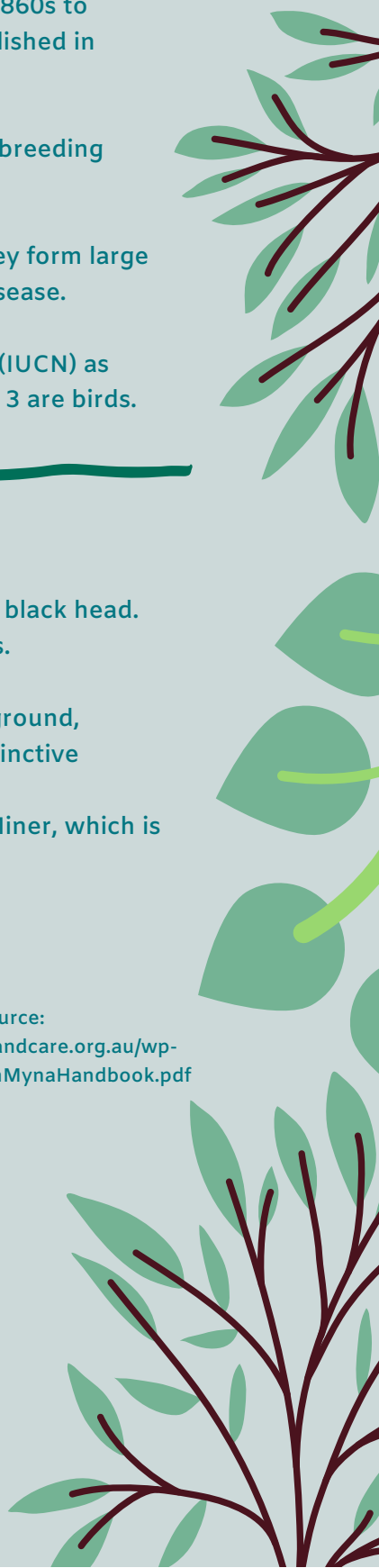
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### Identification

- Common Mynas are predominantly chocolate brown with a black head.
- They have yellow legs and yellow patches around their eyes.
- In flight, white wing patches are clearly visible.
- Common Mynas spend much of their time foraging on the ground, where they can often be observed moving about with a distinctive 'hopping gait'.
- Common Mynas are often confused with the native Noisy Miner, which is grey.



Image & description source:  
<https://www.bellingerlandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/IndianMynaHandbook.pdf>



# Bello Bio Blog No 7. Common Myna (cont)

## Habitat

Common Mynas are a very adaptable species and have been able to exploit a range of conditions and food types. They often congregate near areas of intensive agriculture where feedlots or poultry coops are accessible, or where food scraps are easily available, such as picnic areas, school yards and outdoor cafe's.

Common Mynas require hollows for nesting. They will nest in tree hollows, palms and under roofs in sheds and houses. They compete for nesting hollows with native birds, destroying their eggs and chicks and interrupting natural breeding. They will also evict small mammals from their hollows leaving them potentially unusable due to their messy nesting habits.

Hundreds of Mynas can roost in a single tree or building, especially near a regular food source like a racecourse. When the Myna numbers get so great, food becomes scarce and a new colony is established.



Image source:  
<https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/2271804/myna-bird-needs-major-trap-effort/>

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## Biology

Common Mynas are sedentary, non-migratory birds, however they may move between roost sites and foraging grounds, with additional seasonal movements between known habitats.

Mynas form pairs for breeding from September to March. They can raise multiple clutches per year, with 4- 5 chicks per clutch. The fledgling period lasts for 20-30 days and when the juveniles are ready to fly they travel in small family groups.

After March, Mynas move to communal roosts with other family groups where they can number in the hundreds. They split up in the mornings, going off in different directions to find food in small groups.



Common Mynas lay blue eggs in a messy nest of found objects. Here in the eaves of a house. Image source: <https://guttercleaningmelbourne.com.au/blog/indian-myna-bird-proofing/>

# Bello Bio Blog No 7. Common Myna (cont)

## Reducing Myna Numbers

Common mynas have been able to take advantage of human habits and environments to thrive. While eradication is difficult, there are steps everyone can take to reduce numbers, by restricting suitable habitat and food sources.

You can reduce their available food source:

- Do not leave out seed and other food for native birds. This will attract Common Mynas and they will quickly dominate your garden.
- Plant a wide range of local native plant species in your garden to provide a diversity of habitats for native birds. Common Mynas prefer foraging in cleared areas. Gardens with a reduced lawn area containing a mixture of native trees, shrubs and herbs, will attract a variety of birdlife without providing suitable habitats for Mynas.
- Feed pets inside, or if that is not possible, put pet food inside during the day.
- Ensure chicken & duck pens are Myna proof. Feed poultry inside a secured area.
- When feeding livestock, stay with the animals while they are feeding and clean up spilled or leftover pellets or grain. Also bag manure around stables and cover compost heaps.

Ensure food scraps are removed after al-fresco dining. Do not "leave it for the birds".

You can reduce their available habitat in the following ways:

- Block holes in roofs and eaves.
- Keep palms well trimmed. Avoid planting clumps of exotic species such as Cocos Palm (*Cocos plumosa*), Slash Pine (*Pinus elliotii*), Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*) and Umbrella Tree (*Schefflera actinophylla*), as these are all preferred Common Myna roosting trees.
- If you have a Myna nest in your roof, gutters, a backyard tree or a bird box in your garden, you should destroy it before the eggs hatch. Put the nest in a garbage bag in your garbage bin. (Wear gloves when handling Myna Birds and their nests - bird mite infestations can cause severe itching and rashes).



Common Mynas prefer open lawn areas to forage. Image source: [http://www.springfieldlakesnaturecare.org.au/?page\\_id=854](http://www.springfieldlakesnaturecare.org.au/?page_id=854)

# Bello Bio Blog No 7. Common Myna (cont)

## Trapping

Trapping of feral birds is a large undertaking with strict protocols that must be adhered to to ensure the process is both ethical and humane. People should think carefully whether they are able to commit to the process in its entirety.

- Traps which capture birds live, for later humane disposal must be used. One Example is the Pee Gees trap. See below for construction instructions.
- Neighbouring property owners should always be advised of your proposed trapping program, particularly where domestic pets may be impacted by the traps location.
- Traps are specifically for the trapping & control of Common Myna birds and must not be used for any other purpose.
- You must be available to monitor the trap whenever it is set out. If you go away, put the trap away. This ensures any non target species can be released & trapped animals can be kept fed and watered until disposal.
- Native birds are protected by law. Any native bird species trapped accidentally must be released immediately.
- Any domestic pets accidentally trapped must be released and returned to owners.
- Birds must be treated humanely before disposal which means you must ensure the traps have shade from direct sun and food & water is always available.
- Traps are not to be placed on Crown Land, Council Reserves or private lands without the permission of the owner.
- Trapped Common Myna birds are at all times to be humanely handled and destroyed, their bodies being disposed of in an approved manner. Small numbers of dead birds can be disposed of in domestic waste but large numbers should be buried or disposed of through arrangements with Council.



Image & description source:  
[https://nambucca.nsw.gov.au/files/PG\\_trap\\_instructions1.pdf#:~:text=Peter%20Green%20from%20the%20Canberra,euthanasia%20of%20captured%20Indian%20Mynas.h](https://nambucca.nsw.gov.au/files/PG_trap_instructions1.pdf#:~:text=Peter%20Green%20from%20the%20Canberra,euthanasia%20of%20captured%20Indian%20Mynas.h)

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## More Information

[Common Myna Handbook](#)  
[SOP trapping pest birds](#)  
[Common Myna Trap Design](#)  
[Feral Scan \(Record Common Myna Activity\)](#)