

YOU Can Help

Here are some things you can do to help discourage Indian Mynas



Clear away food scraps after eating outdoors.



Feed pets indoors, or clear away when they've finished.



Plant native shrubs to reduce open areas in gardens.



Avoid planting trees with dense foliage, such as pencil pines, in which mynas will roost at night.



Block holes in roofs or eaves to prevent mynas from nesting – make sure you don't accidentally trap a possum, bat or other native species.



In rural areas, feed stock only as much as they need, cover the feed bins and clean up any spills.

CIMAG

Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc.

CIMAG is a non-profit community-action group that has the aim of protecting our native birds and mammals from the threat posed by the introduced Indian Myna in the Canberra region.

CIMAG has developed a number of strategies, including public education and a trapping program, to tackle these introduced pests.



Trap designed by Peter Green

CIMAG's trapping program – endorsed by the RSPCA and the ACT Government – has been highly successful, and has humanely removed some 17,000 mynas from around Canberra in 2 years.

Please do not interfere with traps that you might see in people's yards. They are doing something very important for our environment.

You can also participate in this activity. If you want to know more, contact CIMAG:



02 6231 7461 or

president@indianmynaaction.org.au



www.indianmynaaction.org.au

Indian Myna



the Flying Cane Toad

The Indian Myna:

One of World's 100 Most Invasive Species

– World Conservation Union

Extreme Threat category

– Australian National Vertebrate Pests Committee

The Most Hated Pest in Australia

– ABC Wild Watch Quest for Pests 2005
(beating cane toads, feral cats and foxes)

You can have native birds or Indian Mynas — but not both.

Ian Fraser, local naturalist and 2006 Winner Australian Natural History Medallion

You can help protect our native wildlife.

Indian Myna

(or **Common Myna**)

Acridotheres tristis



Indian Mynas occur naturally from Iran through India to Indochina. They have been introduced into South Africa, North America, the Middle East, Australia, New Zealand and many Pacific islands.

Indian Mynas were brought into Melbourne market gardens in the 1860s to keep down insects. They were then taken to Cairns and other places in far north Queensland to control insects in cane fields. They failed!

Birds of open woodland, mynas adapt easily to human urban and rural landscapes. Intelligent and aggressive, they are now often the predominant bird in urban areas all along the east coast – from Cairns to Melbourne.

Mynas are in particularly high numbers around schools, outdoor cafes and shopping centres, where there is easy food.

Published with funding support from the ACT Environment Grant Program and Australian Government EnviroFund



Indian Mynas arrived in Canberra in 1968, when a misguided person released some birds from Sydney because he liked hearing their call.

It is now estimated that there are some **250 Indian Mynas per square kilometre** in the urban area of Canberra.

This is a 150,000 feral population, out-competing our native birds and arboreal mammals for nesting sites, preying on eggs, chicks and mammal young.



Indian Mynas are noisy, territorial and not afraid of humans. They use their superior numbers to aggressively defend their territory. During breeding season, mynas seek out nesting hollows which they take over from native birds and animals, after harassing and evicting them.

Indian Mynas kill the chicks of other birds or destroy their eggs. They have been seen to block the entries to nesting hollows, causing the inhabitants to die of starvation, after which they then lay their eggs in the hollow.

Mynas build and defend several nests during the breeding season, although they only lay eggs in one – which excludes native birds and animals from even more nesting sites. Mynas can raise two broods of young every year, and spend their nights in noisy communal roosts.

Mynas can create fire risks in buildings through making large untidy nests under eaves and roofs, using sticks, straw, feathers and rubbish, like scraps of paper and plastic.

They also hang around restaurants and cafes, walking on tables in search of food, and leaving droppings behind. It isn't hard to see the potential public health risk they pose.

