

# PEST BIRD FACT SHEET

## SPECIES PROFILE - COMMON MYNA

Common Name: Common Myna, Indian Myna

Scientific Name: *Sturnus tristis*



### Distribution & habitat

- Introduced at Melbourne from south-east Asia between 1862 and 1872, it established quickly.
- Found along the east and south-east coasts of Australia.
- Closely associated with human habitation. In the evening, large groups of Common Mynas gather in communal roosts, mainly in the non-breeding season, in roof voids, bridges, and large trees, and numbers can reach up to several thousand.
- Now regarded as one of the world's 100 most significant invasive species.

### Feeding

- Common Mynas are accomplished scavengers, feeding on almost anything, including insects, fruits and vegetables, scraps, pets' food and even fledgling sparrows.
- They are ground foragers in open habitats. Mynas thrive where there is easy access to food (including native bird seed and pet food).

### Breeding

- Common Mynas form breeding pairs from September to March, when they find a protected nesting site.
- During the breeding season there is considerable competition for nesting sites.
- Nests are messy and consist of a variety of materials including leaves, grasses, feathers and assorted items of rubbish.
- In urban environments, Mynas nest in man-made structures including holes in many artificial structures (e.g. walls and ceilings of buildings, drains, walls, ventilators, underneath bridges, machinery, the eaves of houses), making these birds a nuisance to humans. Nests are also placed in the dead fronds of palms, and in tree hollows, which are used by native birds.
- Throughout the breeding season nesting territories are defended aggressively by both sexes.
- The success of the Myna appears to be associated with its ability to construct nests very quickly (1-2 weeks), lay and rear a large clutch (4-5 eggs), and to produce successive broods (i.e. 2-3 clutches every breeding season).
- After March, Mynas join larger groups and move to communal roosts.

### Living with humans

- Communal roosting and nesting habits creates aesthetic and human health concerns.
- There are also economic costs associated with Mynas damaging property through fouling these areas.
- They cause damage to fruit and grain crops.
- They invade gardens, feeding from flowering shrubs, seed put out to attract native birds, and pet food.
- Intense competition often exists between Mynas and native birds for nesting hollows near human settlements, with Mynas often successfully harassing and excluding native species. Impacts to parrots and gliders are of greatest concern. A decline in the breeding success of many native bird species has been attributed to the spread of the Myna.

### Control options

- Habitat Management: Reduce nest site availability, Nest destruction, Limit availability of food, Plant native vegetation, Exclusion
- Lethal: Trapping (during or just prior to the breeding season)

For further information see 'Pest Birds – Potential Control Options' fact sheet

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Living%20in%20the%20Area/Parks/Facilities/images/myna-id-for-web.jpg>

The native Noisy Miner is commonly confused with the Common Myna

Common Myna nest in roof



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25 [http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/content/Image/Reports/environment/Noisy\\_Minier\\_Bird.jpg](http://www.richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au/content/Image/Reports/environment/Noisy_Minier_Bird.jpg)

26 [http://www.yimag.org.au/assets/images/myna\\_nest2.jpg](http://www.yimag.org.au/assets/images/myna_nest2.jpg)