






PEST BIRDS - POTENTIAL CONTROL OPTIONS

Method	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
Lethal			
<p>Trapping</p> <p>Examples: Walk-in cage traps, clap and sprung traps, roost traps and nest traps</p>  <p>18</p>	<p>Various live-capture traps can be used. Trap sites should be used in rotation to reduce trap shyness. During the breeding season most birds are territorial and so trapping may be less effective. Also, for bird species with high rates of fecundity (e.g. starlings and mynas) removing birds during or just prior to the breeding season may cause greater reductions in density in the long term. Trapped pest birds should be euthanased after capture.</p> <p>The traps used should be specific for the target species. Details of trap specifications and construction can be obtained from relevant State/Territory pest control officers. Bait material suitable to the species being trapped should be used.</p> <p>Targeting communal roosting sites is recommended.</p>	<p>May be effective in reducing high populations when coupled with other control options such as nest destruction.</p>	<p>Slow and labour-intensive. Confinement in a trap causes fear and distress; therefore traps need to be carefully managed. In many incidences trapping does not have a long term effect on the population. The number of birds caught and killed during trapping operations can be replaced as quickly as the birds are removed. It is important that the source of food is removed otherwise the trapping exercise may be pointless.</p>
<p>Egg oil</p>  <p>19</p>	<p>Vegetable and mineral oils can be used to prevent hatching when the oils are applied directly to eggs in the nest. An advantage of applying oils, rather than destroying eggs or nests, is that birds may continue incubating, in some cases beyond the normal time for hatching.</p>	<p>May be effective for reducing small urban populations of pest birds with extended breeding seasons.</p>	<p>May have a high labour cost due to the inaccessibility of many bird nests. Therefore it may only be useful for small or isolated pest populations</p>
Habitat Management			
<p>Reduce habitat quality</p>  <p>20</p>	<p>Habitat quality can be reduced so that fewer resources are available for a pest species and their numbers decline. Alternatively, pest birds can be lured away from an area by providing more attractive habitats or food elsewhere. It may be possible, however, to modify or remove isolated trees or shrubs that are used for roosting.</p> <p>Common Myna: Modify or remove isolated trees or shrubs that are used for roosting. Keep palm trees well trimmed. Common Mynas are ground foragers in open habitats. Therefore, modifying vegetation structure, such as ensuring the presence of understorey shrubs and reducing the amount of short grass cover will</p>	<p>Limits resource availability; long-term</p>	<p>Not practicable for reducing populations of pest birds over large areas. May conflict with vegetation management legislation</p>

18 <http://www.pestit.com/images/mynaMagnetTrap.jpg>


19 <http://vanessaruns.files.wordpress.com/2011/02/canola-oil.jpg>

20 http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/uploads/large/africanolive_maitlandvale.jpg

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	<p>reduce the amount of foraging habitat for the species. Remove known roost trees (as long as they are not providing habitat for native birds). .</p>		
<p>Nest destruction and limit availability of food</p>  <p>21</p>	<p>Removing breeding habitat or nests can be a very effective technique for managing pest bird numbers on your property and within a district.</p> <p>Removing nearby food sources may also reduce damage on a local scale. Remove sources of food and water (pet food bowls, bird baths and bird feeders, modify stock trough).</p> <p>Common Starling: Will return to the same area each year to breed, and their young will also use the same habitat as their parents, therefore removing breeding habitat can be every effective.</p> <p>Common Myna: Check that Mynas are not taking over nest boxes in your garden. Mynas thrive where there is easy access to food. Seed for native birds will attract mynas and they will quickly dominate your garden. If you see mynas at your bird feeder or in your garden, stop putting out birdseed immediately. Feed pets inside, or if that is not possible, put pet food inside during the day. Feed chickens and ducks in a secure pen so mynas can't get to the food. If you feed goats or horses, it is best to stay with the animals while they are feeding and clean up spilled or leftover pellets or grain. Cover or bag horse manure around stables.</p> <p>House Sparrow: Sparrow populations will continue to increase if nests are allowed to remain. Removal of nests, eggs and young tends to discourage birds from buildings. However, sparrows are persistent and nest removal must be repeated every two weeks during the breeding season. Long insulated poles may be used to remove nests from high places and destroyed to prevent reuse. Cover any source of grain or food to prevent access by sparrows.</p>	<p>Limits resource availability (e.g. breeding sites), high acceptance, may be particularly effective in combination with other measures, it is a passive method.</p>	<p>Potential poorly realised for most species, can shift problem from one place to another. May need to be an ongoing activity.</p>
<p>Native vegetation</p>  <p>22</p>	<p>Native flowering plants can be planted to increase plant diversity and the extent of native vegetation thereby increasing the diversity of birds, particularly native species. Habitats with exotic flowering plants can be preferred by introduced bird species such as starlings and European blackbirds. A balance of native shrubs and trees of varying heights is recommended for conservation and may reduce the numbers of pest birds. Fence patches of vegetation off and rehabilitate remnant vegetation to improve its quality. If possible, make the patches bigger or more connected to other patches.</p> <p>Common Starling: Starlings will nest primarily in small patches of vegetation which are degraded and have little understorey. Starlings are fringe dwellers, because they can find food and shelter easily on the fringes of areas of vegetation. Plant</p>	<p>Long-term Attracts native birds</p>	<p>Colonisation by aggressive edge-specialist honeyeaters</p>

21 <http://www.birdremovalbrisbane.com.au/images/bird%20nest%20brisbane.jpg>

22 <http://www.duckpond-design.com.au/theduckpond/13july2003.htm>

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	<p>native species around your property, such as eucalypts, bottlebrushes and grevilleas. Large trees like pine, elm, poplar and palms provide roosts for starlings during summer.</p> <p>Common Myna: A balance of native shrubs and trees of varying heights is recommended for conservation and may reduce the numbers of pest birds. Replace thick, exotic trees in your garden such as Canary Island date palms, Mediterranean cyprus or ivy with eucalypts or other native species. Native flowering bushes such as bottlebrushes and grevilleas will encourage native birds such as honeyeaters and lorikeets that chase away mynas. However, as these native birds also chase away little insect-eating birds such as fairy wrens (<i>Malurus</i> spp.), plant a mix of low spiky bushes to ensure wrens have a place to hide.</p> <p>Common Blackbird: Remove fruiting weeds, especially Cotoneaster, and replace them with native plants. To avoid colonisation by aggressive edge-specialist honeyeaters (for example, noisy miners), O'Neill (1999) suggests that revegetation should not include more than 20% of nectar-producing shrubs.</p>		
<p>Exclusion</p> <p>Examples: Netting, bird spikes, gutter guard, BirdSlide, screening, building alteration, wires, polybutene, high pressure hose.</p> 	<p>Exclusion and habitat alteration are used extensively to minimise the impact of pest birds in many areas. The purpose is to deny them access to enter or use any structure as a nesting or roosting site. It is important to prevent pest birds from gaining access to roosting and nesting sites by sealing doorways, windows, open eaves etc. This may require extensive renovations or may be as simple as sealing a crack or crevice using materials such as mesh, wooden panels, or a tennis ball. Products such as netting (bird wire or mesh), wire coils, gutter guards, or 'bird spikes' prevent birds from landing or roosting on building surfaces.</p> <p>For new buildings, sloping (at an angle of no less than 45°) rather than level windowsills provide a much less attractive perching point. Closing all openings of 0.75 inches or larger and attaching signs flat against buildings can also assist in control of pest birds.</p>	<p>Flexible use, High level of public acceptability, humane, expertise for its installation and maintenance is readily available.</p>	<p>High initial capital cost if large areas are to be covered. Poorly designed or maintained bird proofing can lead to birds becoming fatally trapped or be ineffective. Bird spikes are useful only in inaccessible situations due to risk of human injury.</p>

²³ http://www.homeimprovementpages.com.au/creative/galleries/260001_265000/260340/557x418/175392.jpg?v=1310032421; <http://absolutebirdcontrol.info/products/bird-spikes>