



Clarence Valley
Conservation in Action
MYNA NEWSLETTER NO 12
MARCH 2014



OUR TALLY CONTINUES TO RISE AND IS ALMOST 5900 MYNAS

AUTUMN IS HERE

Smaller nesting groups will start to decrease as winter approaches. The mynas will start to flock and find suitable roost trees with a good feed source for the colder months. Even if myna numbers decrease in your yard, please keep reporting your sighting and tallies (even if 0[nm]- zero, no mynas).

Reports and tallies have shown that over the last 6 months mynas have been fairly hard to catch where there are only a few birds, but in saying that, where there are larger numbers trappers have generally been successful. This situation has also been happening in the Nambucca/Bellingen/Coffs areas as we found out at a recent Network Meeting.

Myna trapping is like weeding – you do it when you can & every little bit counts. (not to sound repetitive) THANK YOU ALL for helping maintaining the balance for our native wildlife.

NETWORK MEETING

Nambucca/Bellingen/Coffs Harbour group have finished their 5 year grant and are transitioning into a voluntary group like us, dependant on good coordinators and trappers supported by councils and Landcare. It will be quite a change from having a salaried project officer but based on the group we met I'm sure they will make a go of it. We offered them our help and a supply of well made inexpensive traps if they need more.

126 MYNAS - IT HAS TO BE A RECORD!

Rowan from Coutts Crossing caught the few Mynas in his yard and a couple from a mate's place down the road but he was eager to do more. So in February he found Roy's place at Junction Hill (Trenayr Rd) overrun with mynas - he volunteered to give Roy a hand in trapping. After they caught 72 mynas in the first 2 weeks, Rowan left for overseas and Roy capably managed to rid the environment of another 54 for the **huge total of 126 in just 4 weeks.**

Well done to you both! Roy is now hoping to supply a caller to a nearby trapper to get him trapping as well. Networking and helping each other is terrific, and thanks Rowan and Roy for keeping us informed. The area of Junction Hill has been bad but we could never find anyone to trap. We had tried letter drops in the area but never got any responses so we really appreciate Rowan's efforts.

NETWORKING AND APPRECIATION

We also thank Bevan, the South Grafton trapper extraordinaire, as he was also helping David in Trenayr Rd near the Ag Station. They caught 25 in Feb. We appreciate EVERYONE's efforts and we like to acknowledge all the other trappers who assist each other. Lawrence trappers are helping others who have myna problems. There are other pockets of networking going on and supplying caller birds or giving trapping hints – and please remember to keep us in the loop.

Special thanks to Pam for being our Grafton base. Pam distributes traps and callers, collects tallies and just being there is great for us and all trappers. We also have our faithful CVCIA contacts (Graeme, Helen and Paul) who collect tallies and distribute traps at Copmanhurst, Waterview Heights and Yamba.



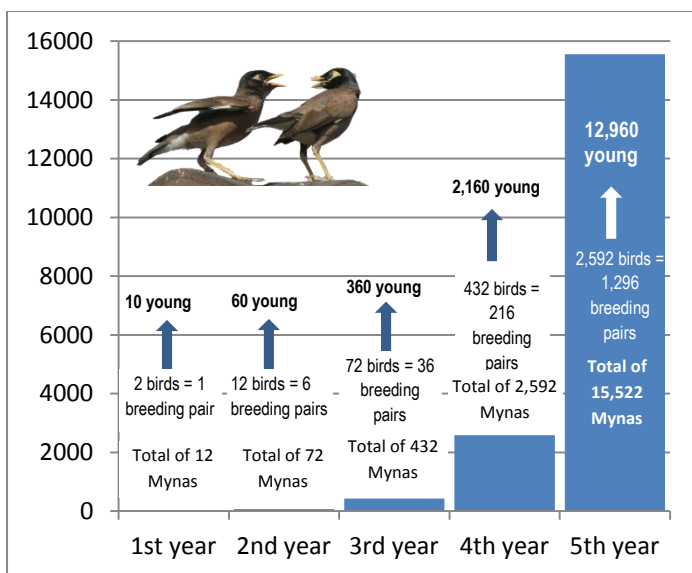
HOW EASY WAS THAT?

33 mynas in 3 days (mostly young and hungry) – so.....that number isn't unusually for some of our CV trappers but for Kevin and I it was a new experience. Here at Kungala we have been patient, vigilant and frustrated over the years as we (including our caller bird) try to trap a few mynas as they fly through our property. We can have successes in a couple of days or after 3 weeks or no success at all and we are helpless as the mynas move away. But in the last days of January we saw a few mynas in a paddock and as they didn't seem interested in visiting our caller bird near the house, we took a trap to them placing it so we could see what was going on with binoculars. We didn't take the caller but baited with the usual dog biscuits and a sprinkling of cheezels (a "super junk food for them) in hope to catch another caller quickly. Well, the rest is history – caught 16 the first day, 14 the second and 3 the last day.

Unfortunately, there were few we didn't get before they moved on. It seems that when the Mynas are in large flocks, they fight to get to the food first and their wary/cautious guard is down. Our January tally exceeded our 3-year total tally.

Indian Myna Proliferation

Typically IMs can produce up to 20 offspring in a good season breeding many times with clutches of 5-6 chicks. Based on a conservative survival rate, ten mynas surviving to breed the following year we calculated a staggering total of over 15,500 birds in 5 years. As shown in graph below.



Native birds breeding patterns:

In good conditions, a pair of the following 15 common local native birds could possibly produce:

	<u>Young</u>	<u>5 year total</u>
Black Cockatoo	1	15
Regent Bowerbird	2	64
Satin Bowerbird	2	64
Currawong	3	195
Galah	3	195
Magpie	3	195
Noisy Friarbird	3	195
Rainbow Lorikeet	3	195
Wattlebird	3	195
Scaly-breasted Lorikeet	3	195
King Parrot	4	486
Grey Butcherbird	4	486
Pied Butcherbird	4	486
Eastern Rosella	5	1050
Noisy Miner	6	2048
5 year total		6064

This information is based on a information sheet from Robin Frakes.

Note the dramatically different breeding rates. The figures for IMs are conservative whilst those for natives are average or slightly better than average and some native birds don't breed until they are several years old.

It is pretty obvious why in places like Sydney and Newcastle the Indian Myna is the most prevalent bird.

In the ACT trapping by the CIMAG has pushed the Indian Mynas from the third most prominent bird to around the twentieth. So hopefully by reducing food sources and with constant trapping we can keep their numbers in check and maintain a similar balance.

INDIAN MYNA TALLY

2011 = 1593 2012 = 2010 2013= 1749

TOTAL TO DATE 5888

OUR TOP 10 TRAPPING AREAS in2013 with 2014 in ()

1.	South Grafton	217	(19)
2.	Coutts Crossing	206	(82)
3.	Copmanhurst	181	(10)
4.	Glenreagh	118	(0)
5.	Grafton	112	(0)
6.	Lawrence	105	(21)
7.	Palmers Channel	83	(4)
8.	Lilydale	79	(36)
9.	Eatonsville	77	(29)
10.	Waterview Heights	63	(16)
	Junction Hill	22	(138)

TRAP BUILDING

Nortec Grafton has produced traps for us and for many northern NSW Indian Mynas groups. There is a chance of this successful employment training program might have to finish due to lack of orders.

However, we have recently had interest for Nortec traps from Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo Councils where the mynas are now spreading to and this option is being investigated.

Freight will be a problem so we are working on a slightly smaller more compact design where the smaller section can be shipped inside the larger holding section. This requires a little assembly by the receiver but will minimise the freight cost.

If anyone knows of a carrier or freight company that might be interested in helping in any way with this please let us know.

Do you have email access?

If so please let us know as we prefer to send this newsletter electronically

Email: mynas@cvcia.org.au , laura@cvcia.org.au , kevin@cvcia.org.au , or your area coordinator.

Phone: Laura or Kevin on 6649 4712
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