

OUR TALLY PASSES 7600 MYNAS

CHRISTMAS IS ON THE WAY

Now there are many young and inexperienced Indian Myna fledglings about so we should increase our trapping efforts to make sure that we keep the overall numbers down. In the cooler months some people reported that the Mynas had visited briefly then disappeared, so the number of IMs caught was less than in previous years but just one euthanased IM interrupts their breeding cycle.

We wish everyone a Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year. Also, just a reminder that we are all giving each other a break and won't be following up any tallies after this month (November) until February 2016, so please keep your tallies for December and January even if zero (0). If you still wish to phone or email them in each month, we're happy to receive them.

Keep up the great work and thank you all for participating and for your continued support.

RESEARCH

A report on the abundance and distribution of Common (Indian) Mynas in Clarence Valley was carried out by Dr Greg Clancy. Thank you to Pam (a valued team member) for obtaining a grant from The Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

"Regardless of over 6,500 mynas being trapped since 2011, this is the first distribution and abundance study carried out in the CV. This study should be valuable as a baseline study to make future comparisons and to assess the effectiveness of the trapping program."

HOUDINI

There have been a few reports that mynas have escaped from the trap. "Earlier in the day there were 3 in the trap but by evening there was only one". If this happens, or even before this happens, please make a couple of adjustments.

- The tunnels in the trapping compartment should taper down from 3 squares to nearly 2 squares. If they don't, then please squeeze the sides of the tunnel tapering into the trap area.
- Reduce the opening of the funnel (in the holding compartment) slightly by pushing the lid down a little and/or adjusting the curled spikes.
- Move the top perch away from the funnel's opening if the perch is too close.



Kevin and Laura presented a full day workshop on 14th March 2015 for the Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, Brisbane. It was well attended by 40 in the morning and then 20 in the afternoon for trap building.

LANDCARE DISPLAYS

CV Landcare (thank you Alastair) has been presenting information stalls at various locations throughout the Clarence (Yamba and Grafton shopping centres, Jacaranda day) to revitalise local interest and hopefully recruit volunteers in Landcare. This also sparked extra inquiries regarding mynas and trapping.

AROUND THE TRAPS/NETWORKING

Mynas as a Threatening Species – Time to Campaign with Environment Ministers

(This has been copied from the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group, CIMAG, newsletter).

It is time for the federal and state governments to declare Mynas as a threatening species. The research by Chris Tidemann and Kate Grarock at the Australian National University and the experience overseas now provide the scientific basis that Indian (Common) Mynas have a serious deleterious impact on native birds. It would be greatly appreciated if you would advocate for the protection of Australia's biodiversity of our wildlife from the threat posed by Mynas, by writing to the Federal Minister for the Environment, the Hon Greg Hunt, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600, and to Mark Speakman, the NSW State Environment Minister (PO Box A290, Sydney South NSW 1232) requesting that the Indian Myna be declared as a threatening process. This would require the governments to be more active, including in developing management plans to control this pest.

The following are the sorts of things you could include in your letters:

- You are greatly concerned about the threat posed by the Indian (Common) Myna to Australia's biodiversity.
- The research at the Australian National University now gives the scientific evidence that this introduced pest bird is having a significant deleterious effect on our native wildlife. Mynas out-compete native hollow-nesting birds – rosellas, Kookaburras, cockatoos etc - for tree hollows, and evict birds and small mammals from hollows, killing young and destroying eggs. The research also indicates they have led to a decline in small birds, such as Willie Wagtails, Superb Fairy Wrens, Grey Fantails, Silvereyes, and Rufous Whistlers.

In the Clarence Valley, the Myna has been seen taking over the dormitory nests of the threatened Grey-crowned Babbler.

- This scientific research reflects our own lived experience in noting the decline of native birds in our area when Myna numbers have increased.
- The experience overseas, most recently in Tahiti and the Seychelles, clearly shows that when Mynas are removed from the environment, local bird numbers rebound.
- Given the serious impact Mynas can have on our wildlife, it is time for the government to declare the Indian (Common) Myna as a threatening species, and as such, support action at the community and local government level to remove this threat from the environment.

Thank you.

Campbelltown Council in Sydney has had a trapping program running for about 12 months. It's based on the Illawarra system, ie you attend an hour's workshop with Council and then this enables you to be able to buy a trap from the Men's Shed. The only difference is that residents outside their area can also participate if there are any workshop vacancies at the time. If you know anyone in Sydney who might be interested, contact:
Mitchell Clark 46454501.

More areas which loan traps:

nsla@gwydir.nsw.gov.au 6724 2052 (Bingara/Moree)
admin@gwymaclandcare.net.au 6721 1241 (Inverell)



The Nortec/CVCIA trap building employment training program may soon have to be scaled back as we seem to have filled the demand for traps in our surrounding districts. Councils/ groups have either sufficient for now or more often funding has dried up. Do you have friends outside the Clarence Valley area who are interested in trapping these pest birds? If so we can supply well made Nortec PG traps for \$30 ex Grafton, (typically freight to Sydney is around \$25).

CHANGE TO NEWSLETTER PUBLISHING

Due to our seemingly ever increasing workload and finding content for the Newsletter it appears a bi annual newsletter will have to be adequate. Newsletter contributions of articles/comments are most welcome.

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

Phone: Laura on 6649 4712 or your area co-ordinator.

Website: www.cvcia.org.au

INDIAN MYNA TALLY

2011 = 1593 2012 = 2010

2013= 1753 2014 = 1329

2015 = 973

TOTAL TO DATE 7658

OUR TOP 10 TRAPPING AREAS in 2015 (to Oct)

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Coutts Crossing | 153 |
| 2. Carrs Creek | 140 |
| 3. South Grafton | 115 |
| 4. Kungala | 106 |
| 5. Trenayr | 58 |
| 6. Wooli | 51 |
| 7. Waterview Hghts | 50 |
| 8. Lavida | 48 |
| 9. Ramornie | 46 |
| 10. Palmers Channel | 38 |

Do you have email access?

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