

## Common Indian Myna Trapping Information Sheet

**Identification** - These two birds look somewhat similar, both have yellow beaks and a yellow patch around the eyes, BUT -



The Indian Myna is an INTRODUCED PEST

- It is chocolate brown with a black head and neck.
- In flight, white patches are seen on the wings.
- On the ground it walks erect or struts.

### Why is the Indian Myna a Problem?

- They are prolific breeders, if left unchecked they quickly breed to large flocks. As we provide the mynas a plentiful source of food, the parents can easily feed their young and have up to 18 chicks in one season.
- They are highly invasive and aggressively kill and displace our native birds and wildlife. During the breeding season, they aggressively compete with our tree-hollow-dependant native wildlife such as Squirrel Gliders for tree hollows or nest boxes, destroying eggs and chicks and bullying/injuring adult native occupants.
- They adapt to urban areas where there is an abundance of food in rubbish bins, pet bowls and outdoor eating areas.
- They can cause bird mite/lice infestations if they nest in roofs of buildings.
- They can be potential to carry diseases and they are a minor pest to agriculture.

### Behaviour and Habits of Indian Mynas

They form pairs for breeding from September to March and go in search of a tree hollow or nest box for a nesting site. They are prolific breeders and can raise a number of clutches per year with 4-6 chicks each clutch and, as we provide them plenty of food, the parents can easily raise up to 18 chicks in one season.

After March the mynas join larger groups and move to communal roosts where they can number in the hundreds. They split up in the morning into small groups to find food.

Hundreds of mynas can roost in a single tree or building, especially near a regular food source. When the myna numbers get so great that food becomes scarce, a new colony is established.

### Guide and Tips to Trapping

- Place the trap in an open area or where birds have been seen feeding on the ground on a regular basis.
- Bait the trap with small dog 'minis' or similar (predominately red in colour). If the bait gets wet then re-bait with fresh biscuits.
- Only set up the trap and remove trapped mynas when no free-flying mynas are around. Don't let them see you. Be careful not to educate them, otherwise you may teach them what not to do.
- Observe local habits. Look for their day and night use area. Don't let them see you watching them – observe out of the corners of your eyes.
- Monitor nesting boxes. If used by mynas, destroy the nest, eggs, etc and clean out the nest box.

**Indian Mynas are intelligent, fast learners. If you scare them, your chance of success is reduced.**

# Clarence Valley Conservation in Action

## Common Indian Myna Control Program

### PROTOCOL FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND TRAP MANAGEMENT

**Welcome to the CVCIA's Indian Myna control trapping program.**

Community members who volunteer to participate in trapping are required to commit to the following animal welfare, trap management and care protocol.

**When trapping and using caller birds**

When trapping or using caller birds you must follow the NSW Department of Primary Industries "Standard Operating Procedure for Trapping Pest Birds" (BIR002) as follows:

- The trap and any separate caller cage **must be clean, contain food and water at all times.**
- Trappers are not to use grain-based food (including bread) as this can attract native birds.
- The diet for a caller bird can be varied to include insects, fruit and perhaps a little mince meat.
- If a native bird is trapped it should be released as soon as possible.
- The birds are not to be unduly stressed - avoid handling or approaching the trap frequently.
- The trap is to be monitored regularly (preferably from a distance) - at least twice a day.
- Be aware of points mentioned in SOP 06 "Myna trapping risk analysis & safety issues" attached.

**Dealing with trapped mynas**

The trapped mynas are to be treated in a humane and responsible manner. It is a condition of borrowing this trap that you observe the requirements of the NSW *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.

The method of euthanasia to dispose of trapped mynas is to be **quick and humane, and as stress-free as possible.** There are three preferred methods of euthanasia. They are: gassing with carbon dioxide gas (NOT car exhaust gasses); or cervical dislocation (breaking their necks). Both of these methods require some experience and or training. Use gloves when handling birds. OR locating a Vet who will provide a free euthanasing service. If you feel that you are unable to euthanase, please contact your area coordinator who may put you in touch with someone who could do it for you.

**Trap management and care**

- Traps are provided in good faith and any injury or damage to persons or property whilst being transported or in use is the responsibility of the person signing this agreement.
- When your trapping is complete please return the trap to your coordinator ensuring it is **clean** and in good working condition. A fee of up to \$20 may be charged if the trap is not returned or returned damaged (excluding normal wear & tear).

Please advise your coordinator by phone or email of your tally each month (even if 0).

CVCIA Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I (*print name*).....agree to act in accordance with the above and understand that I have become a member of Clarence Valley Conservation in Action (CVCIA Landcare Inc) for the duration of borrowing the trap and accept CVCIA's Code of Conduct Policies (available to be viewed on our website [www.cvcia.org.au](http://www.cvcia.org.au)).

Trap No. **CVC** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: [www.cvcia.org.au](http://www.cvcia.org.au)

Email: [mynas@cvcia.org.au](mailto:mynas@cvcia.org.au)



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