

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 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 should be varied to include a little mince meat and fruit occasionally.
- 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.

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 painless, and as stress-free as possible.** There are two preferred methods of euthanasia. They are: gassing with carbon dioxide gas, NOT carbon monoxide as in a car exhaust; or cervical dislocation (breaking their necks). Both of these methods require some experience and or training. Use gloves when handling birds.

If you feel that you are unable to euthanase, please contact your area coordinator who will put you in touch with someone who will do it for you.

Trap management and care

When your trapping is complete please return the trap to your coordinator ensuring it is **clean** and in good working condition.

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

You may be asked to return the trap if it is felt that there is a greater need somewhere else.

I (*print name*).....agree to act in accordance with the above.

Trap No. **CVC** _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Email or postal address: _____

Website: www.cvcia.org.au

Email: mynas@cvcia.org.au



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

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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.
- In flight, white patches are seen under 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 killing and displacing our native birds and wildlife.
- They highly invasive and will aggressively destroy eggs and chicks of other birds and compete with native animals such as Squirrel Gliders for tree hollows.
- 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 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 nesting site. They are prolific breeders and can raise a number of clutches per year with 4-5 chicks each clutch.

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. By September, the mynas form pairs and prepare to nest again.

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 a relatively open area or where birds have been seen feeding 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.