

# FACT SHEET #2

## Indian Myna



### Where are they from?

The Indian Myna (or Common Myna) is originally from southern Asia, from Iran over to Sri Lanka.

### Feral pest



Myna distribution

A “feral pest” is an animal or plant that has been brought in from another country, got loose, and is out of control.

Indian Mynas were introduced to many parts of the world. This includes Australia, New Zealand and many Pacific islands.

They were brought into Melbourne in the 1860s to eat insects in the market gardens. They were then taken to Queensland to eat insects in the cane fields. This failed!

Because they are aggressive and highly successful scavengers, mynas are now often the most common bird in cities and towns all along the east coast of Australia. In recent times they have arrived in Darwin, Perth and Tasmania and have been reported in Adelaide.

### Indian Mynas in Canberra

Indian Mynas were released in Canberra in 1968, when a misguided person brought birds from Sydney and let them go because he liked hearing their call. It is now believed that there are about 150,000 Indian Mynas competing with our native birds and small mammals for nesting sites.

Many people in Canberra think that Indian Mynas are a big problem. Schools, shopping centres and backyards can have very high numbers of these pests.

### Winning the wrong kind of prizes!

#### One of World’s 100 Most Invasive Species

– World Conservation Union

#### Extreme Threat category

– Australian National Vertebrate Pests Committee

#### The Most Hated Pest in Australia

– ABC Wild Watch Quest for Pests 2005

(beating cane toads, feral cats and foxes)



### Why are they a problem?



INDIAN MYNA BIRD

Indian Mynas take over nesting hollows from native birds and small mammals. They kill the chicks of native birds or destroy their eggs. They even take over and defend extra nesting hollows, but they only lay eggs in one of them.

Indian Mynas eat food scraps from rubbish bins, pet bowls and outdoor eating areas, and leave droppings on tables and barbecues. They can also build an untidy nest in your roof, which is a fire risk and brings bird mites into your house.

**What native animals do they harm?**



Some rare native birds around Canberra are at risk from the Indian Myna:

- Superb Parrot
- Glossy Black Cockatoo
- Brown Treecreeper



Rare insects, which Indian Mynas eat include:

- Flightless Grasshopper
- Golden Sun Moth



Indian Mynas also hurt common native creatures, such as:

- parrots, rosellas, lorikeets, kookaburras, dollarbirds
- possums and sugar gliders



Indian Mynas drive away the small birds which would normally eat the insects that live on native trees and shrubs. This means the trees themselves start to get unhealthy, from too many insects.

**What can people do?**

**Clear away food scraps after eating outdoors.**



**Feed pets indoors, or clear away when they've finished.**



**Plant native shrubs to reduce open areas in gardens. Avoid planting trees with dense foliage, such as pencil pines, in which mynas will roost at night.**



**Block holes in roofs or eaves to stop mynas from nesting in there – but make first sure you don't trap a possum or bat.**



**On farms, feed chickens and stock only as much as they need, cover the feed bins and clean up any spills.**



**What would you rather have?**



**OR**



and



and



and



?

**Further information**

**If you want to know more, contact CIMAG:**

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