



# Indian Myna Bird Trapping Help Sheet

This help sheet is intended as a guide to trapping Indian Mynas on private property only, in domestic backyard situations.

## Location of the trap

- Place the trap in a relatively open area or where birds already feed, if possible. As Mynas prefer clear, open sites select a site with a 3m clearance of trees, shrubs or buildings and where there is minimal people/animal traffic
- Bait the trap with a food the birds are accustomed to feeding on. In suburbia, Indian Mynas are fond of pet food. Using small dry dog and cat biscuits has been very successful as has processed pet roll. Wet dog or cat food is not suitable in hot or wet conditions. Keep bait fresh and update every 4 days. Remove other food sources such as pet bowls, open garbage and cover compost piles.
- Do not use cereal and grain-based foods (birdseed and breadcrumbs etc) as this attracts non-target birds such as crested pigeons and parrots.
- Put a little loose feed outside the funnel entrances to attract Mynas to the tunnel area, add feed inside the feeding chamber of the trap where the Mynas can see the food directly in front of them when they are in the tunnel.
- Put food in the larger containment chamber for captured birds, and provide fresh water. Loose feeding will attract the birds into your area. You should not over feed outside the trap, as this will not encourage the birds to enter the trap. Use loose feed only to encourage the birds to snack, not to feed them.
- Monitor daily to ensure bait and water are available while trapping and keep pets (particularly cats) away when trapping as the birds see cats and dogs as predators and are unlikely to approach the trap.
- Clean (hose down – if very badly fouled, scrub down the trap). Relocate trap after the area becomes soiled from captured birds, as they don't appear to like being around their own excrement.
- Place newspaper or cardboard under the trap if using the trap on paved surfaces to avoid spoiling your pavements.
- Don't be disappointed if you don't catch birds every day. They are spasmodic in their movements, so keep at it. They may have moved to another food source in the area but will return if you keep feeding. If you keep a call bird in the containment chamber of your trap, this is likely to encourage others to the trap. This is not essential, & if you do this you must provide captive birds with food, water and shelter from weather conditions such as hot sun.
- Use gloves when handling live or dead birds and wash hands as wild birds may carry disease.

## Management of traps

- Traps used are to be designed specifically for Indian Mynas and to have a release opening to allow any native birds to escape
- Trappers are not to use seed-based food in traps as this can attract native birds. If a native bird is trapped, it is to be released immediately (avoid letting Mynas escape)
- The traps are to contain food, clean water and shelter (such as shade cloth or canvas at one end of trap) for any trapped birds
- The birds are not to be exposed to undue stress while trapped – avoid manhandling or approaching the traps too frequently
- Trapped Indian Mynas are to be disposed of in a reasonable period (within two days of capture), rather than kept captive for days on end
- If decoy birds are used in traps, they and any trapped birds are to have access to adequate food, clean water, shelter and shade
- The birds are not to be treated cruelly or with harsh conditions: please observe the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1992
- Traps must be checked morning and evening

*Adapted from Animal Welfare Protocols developed by Canberra Indian Myna Action Group with permission*

## Monitoring & record keeping

Prior to trapping for the first time please ensure you fill in the monitoring sheet on the Indian Myna Capture Monitor Sheet. Monitoring and trapping can be undertaken at the same time.

Ensure you continue to fill in your monitoring sheets before, during & after trapping and submit to:

Hornsby Council  
Bushland and Biodiversity Team  
PO Box 37, Hornsby NSW 1630  
Fax 9847 6598

### The Indian Myna is an introduced pest



### The Noisy Miner is a native bird

