

COMMON OR INDIAN MYNAS

Common Mynas were introduced from India to eat grubs in crops. This was a total failure in the same way as the introduction of Cane Toads was a disaster.

Common Mynas are communal nesters. They nest in communities and the whole flock assists in driving away competitors and feeding young. Because of this they are very successful and numbers can increase quickly. Mynas nest in tree hollows. They will eat anything, seed, insects, pet foods, human food scraps. Native species have more specific diets than Mynas.

Common Mynas are quite aggressive. They drive competitors (native species) away by attacking them, killing them, depriving them of nesting hollows, killing nestlings and fledglings and competing for food resources.

Common Myna numbers are growing. They are expanding their range in many places, especially in S.E. Qld. If they continue to do so we will see far fewer native birds around our homes, towns and cities.

We should discourage Common Mynas by doing all we can to deprive them of food sources, chasing them from our yards and disturbing them when they try to nest in our trees. A hose works wonders.

Some city and town councils are investigating ways to reduce their numbers. Please encourage your elected council officers to think this way.

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