



Tackling Indian Mynas

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Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc



Identification

Indian Myna Bird (Introduced Pest)



Noisy Miner (Native Honeyeater)



Indian (Common) Myna

Sturnus tristis



- Native to Indian sub-continent
 - distinctive colouring and call
 - aggressive / territorial
 - but roost communally
 - opportunistic feeder : omnivorous
 - long lived
 - breeds Oct – March



❖ **adaptive, intelligent,
highly invasive**



The Myna Invasion

- Introduced Melbourne **1862**
 - to control locusts in market gardens
- Taken to Qld canefields (1883)
 - to control cane beetle
 - same as for cane toad
- Brought to Canberra in **1968**
- Now across eastern seaboard



Testimonials

- Among 100 most invasive species worldwide
 - (IUCN 2000)
- Voted most hated pest in Aust
 - ABC Wild Watch Quest for Pests 2005
 - beat cane toad, feral cat and fox
- “You can have native birds or Indian Mynas — but not both”
 - Ian Fraser, local naturalist & 2006 Winner Aust Natural History Medallion



Mat & Cathy Gilfedder

The International Experience

- Mynas have lead to the demise / decline of:

- Mangaia Kingfisher (Cook Is)
- Red-moustached Fruit Dove (French Polynesia)
- Seychelles Magpie Robin (Seychelles)
- Echo Parakeet (Mauritius)
- Tahiti Monarch (Tahiti)
- Long-billed reed warbler (Tahiti)



The Case Against #1

- **Major threat to native wildlife**
 - out-compete native birds for nesting hollows
 - feed on:
 - eggs, chicks, skinks etc & insects
 - drive small birds out of gardens
 - a particular threat to:
 - parrots
 - endangered insects and lizards
- **Degrade woodland ecosystems**
 - by reducing ecosystem services by other birds



Under threat



At Serious Risk



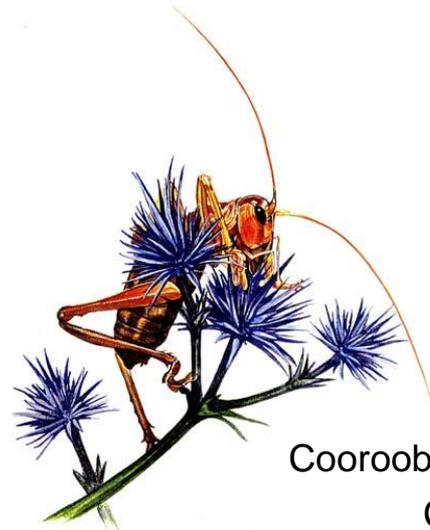
Golden Sun Moth
Synemon plana



Grassland Earless Dragon



Perunga Flightless Grasshopper
Perunga ochracea



Coorooboorama Raspy
Cricket

Could also be affected



Why we are concerned # 2



- Horticulture pest

Nesting targets



A strange place for a nest



CIMAG

(Canberra Indian Myna Action Group Inc.)

Patron: Prof Tony Peacock

- Objective:
 - protect native wildlife from the threat posed by Indian Mynas
 - & reduce their nuisance in urban areas
- Strategy:
 - core elements
 - raise public awareness
 - reduce their growth & spread
 - humane trapping program
 - support local govt / community-action groups
- Community-action approach
 - a successful model
 - 1480 members / 1320 with traps
 - now 38 programs in Aust



“We can make a difference”

- **Doing nothing = decline in native wildlife**
 - needs a concerted, concentrated, co-ordinated & sustained effort
 - at household, commercial and govt level
- Backyard trapping has positive local impact
 - but needs additional effort to have landscape impact



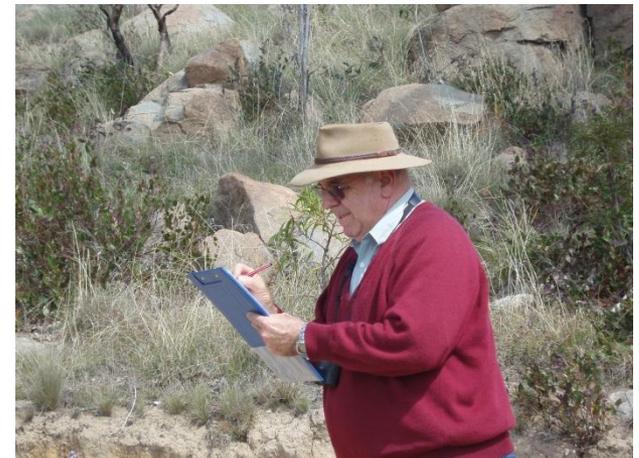
Tackling the problem — Actions # 1

- Raising public understanding
 - a threat to our wildlife, not just a backyard nuisance
- Reduce feeding opportunities
 - keep pet food inside
 - better waste control at schools, restaurants and shopping centres
 - stop direct feeding
- Reduce nesting opportunities
 - block up cavities in roofs
 - maintain vigilance on nesting boxes
- Reduce roosting sites
 - remove unsuitable shrubs / trees
 - eg. dense exotic pencil pines, palm trees
- Promote planting of suitable gardens
 - reduce open space (lawns) and plant native shrubs
- Removal program – eg trapping



Tackling the problem — Actions # 2

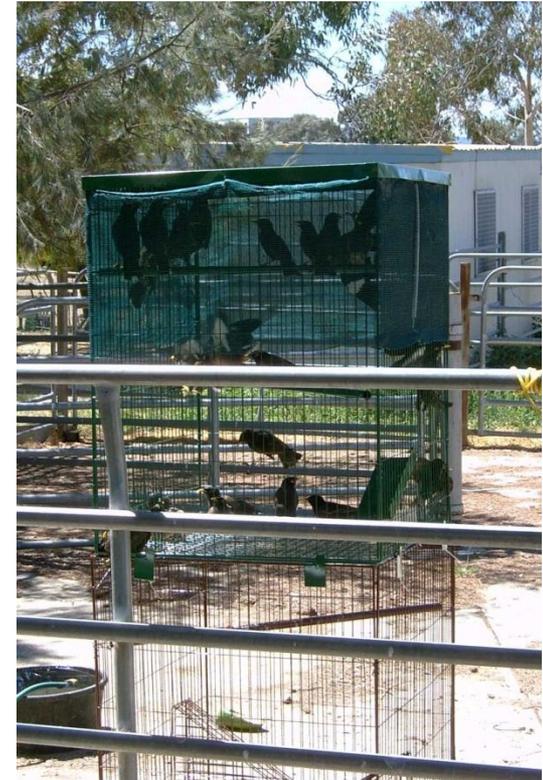
- **Backyard trapping**
 - positive local impact
 - 45,600 mynas removed
 - Protocol on Animal Welfare: with RSPCA
 - Collaborative arrangement with RSPCA on disposal
- **Supporting research**
 - PhD projects
 - euthanasing research
 - Monitoring
 - [Mynascan](#) - Invasive Animals CRC



Traps



**PeeGees
(MiniMyna)**



MynaMagnet



Myna-magic



Are we having an impact?

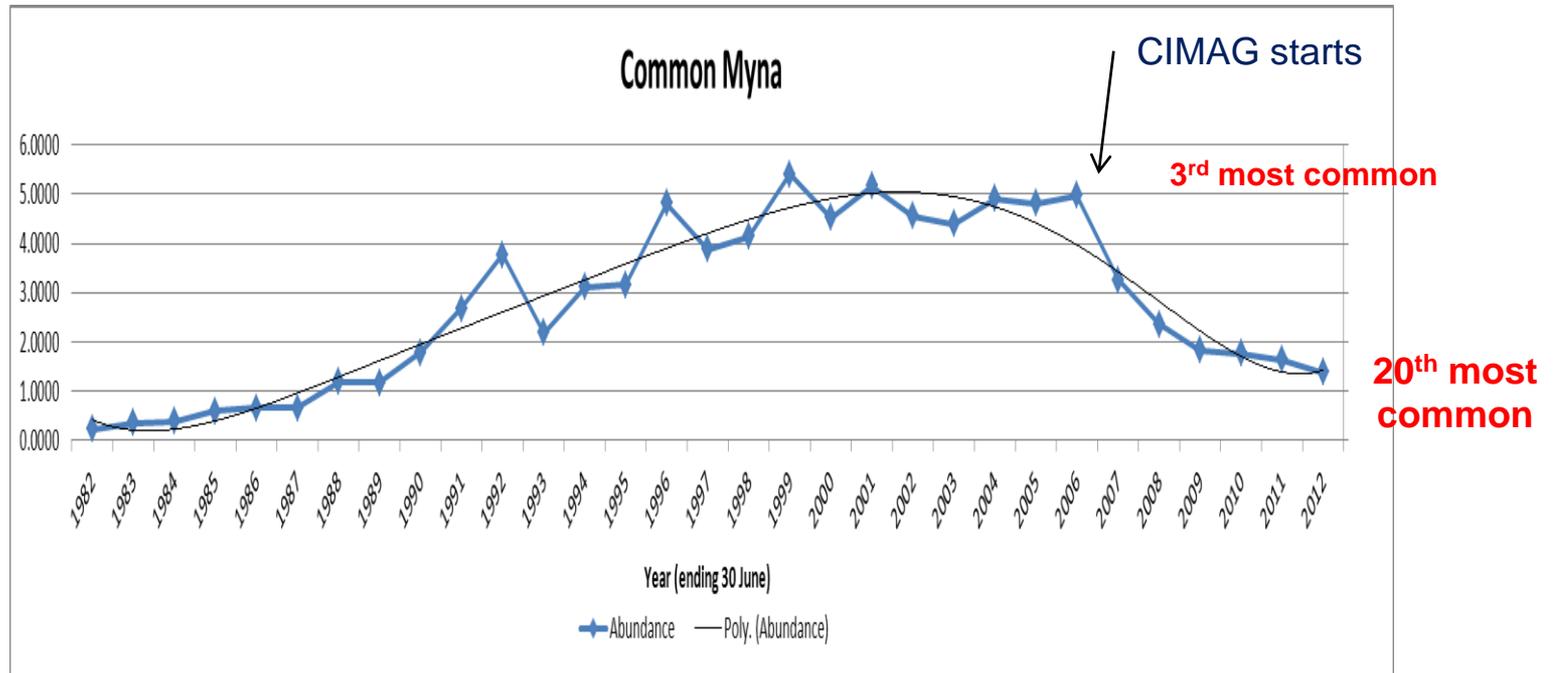
Tell the positive impact

- Consistent trapper reports:

- small birds back in people's gardens
- rosellas / galahs back in nesting hollows & nesting boxes
- no mess / fouling in patios
- Peace !
- COG Garden Bird Survey results:
 - myna numbers in Canberra have reduced



2011-2012 COG Garden Bird Survey Report



3rd most abundant Canberra bird in 2005-06

20th in 2011-12

The impact of trapping

Mt Taylor — Kambah side

	Park gate	Backyard	2km Circuit Walk
2 Mar 06	14	10	41
10 Mar	12	10	38
16 Mar	15	8	30
13 Apr	0	4	20
23 Apr	0	6	22
25 Apr	0	8	24
1 June	0	11	9
2 June	2	4	7
6 June	0	0	4
10 Aug	0	0	5
19 Aug	0	1	4
23 Aug	0	0	0
17 Sep	2	2	2
11 Oct	4	2	0
14 Oct	2	0	3



Bill's house

Fanning Pl

Beilby Pl

Rundle Pl

Ammon Pl



Grass Pl

Bolden Pl

Colquhoun St

Park Gate

Sulwood

ole Pl

Grund Pl

rel

CJ Dennis

The Singing Garden — the Indian Myna

Gimme the town an' its clamour an' clutter;
I ain't very fond of the bush;
For my cobbers are coves of the gardens and gutter —
A tough metropolitan push.
I ain't never too keen on the countryfied life;
It's the hustle an' bustle for me an' me wife.

So I swagger an' strut an' I cuss an' I swagger;
I'm wise to the city's hard way.
A bit of a bloke an' a bit of a bragger;
I've always got plenty to say.
Learned thro' knockin' about since my people came out
From the land at the back of Bombay.

When out in the bush I am never a ranger;
There never ain't nothin' to see.
Besides, them bush birds got no time for a stranger;
So town an' the traffic for me.
I sleep in the gardens an' loaf in the street,
An' sling off all day at the fellers I meet.

An' I swagger an' scold an' strut an' I swagger,
An' pick up me fun where I can,
Or tell off me wife, who's a bit of a nagger,
Or scrap with the sparrers for scran.
A bonzer at bluffin', I give you my word,
For, between you an' me, I'm a pretty tough bird.

"Den"

Herald, 7 January 1933, Number 25 in the Bush Birds series.



Julian Robinson



The End