

AUSTRALIA'S UNNOTICED ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

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When bushfires strike the media and Government respond. If it is bad volunteers flock from interstate to assist. Stories of heroism and wildlife saved are not uncommon. Bushfires are recognised environmental disasters which demand a fast response.

Oil spills generate massive media coverage and attention. Pictures of the oil moving towards and covering coastlines plus dead fish and birds dominate the media. Volunteers work furiously to wash and save as many of the oil covered birds as possible. All this receives the attention it deserves. Once again, a visible, recognizable environmental disaster.



Largely unnoticed by Government is an environmental disaster that kills more Australian wildlife than any fire or oil-spill.

The perpetrators of the disaster have become such a familiar site along the east coast of Australia that they are ignored by most people plus most Local, State and Federal Governments. They are daily moving further inland on their mission of destruction.

Some call them “flying rats” because they scavenge from road kill, waste depots, shopping centres, schools, backyards, in fact everywhere. They breed like rats, with three thousand becoming over half a million in a mere three years. There are millions on the wing right now and unless they are stopped their billions will threaten the existence of every Australian hollow dwelling / breeding bird and marsupial.

The unnoticed environmental disaster is the Indian Myna invasion of Australia.



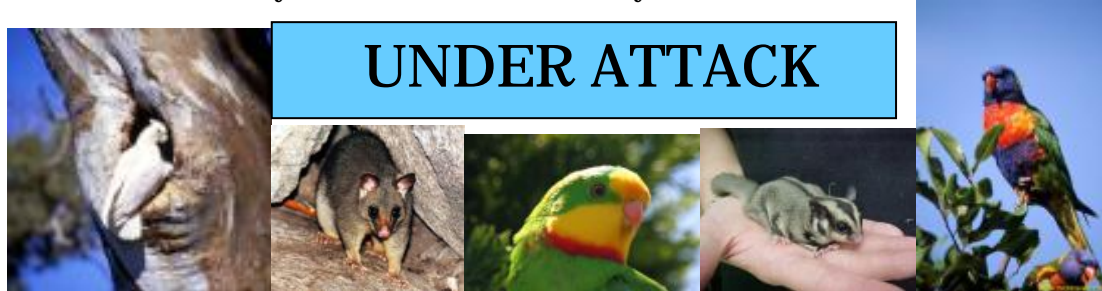
The bird pictured had just finished having a bath at a local shopping centre. He and hundreds of his mates roost in the trees near the shopping centre and spread out to the surrounding areas to feed during the day. They mark out their territory and defend it fiercely, combining and using their superior numbers to keep the Australian native birds away. That is, if any natives in the area have survived the breeding season.

During the breeding season the flock combs its territory for breeding hollows. If any are already occupied by Possums, Sugar Gliders, Rainbow Lorikeets, Corellas or any other bird/ animal species they attack them and eject them from the hollows. If there are eggs or young in the nests they throw them to the ground, the eggs are destroyed, the young killed. Should the parents

attempt to defend their home and young the Indian Mynas keep attacking in large numbers until the defenders are dead or fled.

INDIAN MYNA VICTIMS.

Any Australian native bird or marsupial that requires tree hollows to live or breed is subject to Indian Myna attack during the nesting season. Any bird or animal that enters the Indian Mynas territory at other times will also be attacked. Indian Mynas do not share territory or food sources willingly.



Uncounted millions of Australian native chicks and marsupial babies die from Indian Myna attacks every year. With the adult birds homeless they are unable to breed. Because the marsupials are territorial, even if they flee the attack they are unlikely to survive away from their home territory.

Do the Indian Mynas make use of all the hollows they acquire? No they don't. The ones they don't need they fill with garbage and rubbish to prevent the Australian native birds and marsupials returning. This is backed up by military style action to drive any new native's away.

They are an environmental disaster which if it continues to be ignored by Government will mean that within a few generations (or less) the Indian myna song may be the only one heard throughout much of Australia.

Crops are suffering as the Indian Mynas devour them while at the same time keeping the native birds away. Crops that require the services of native birds to consume fungi are rotting away.

Farm animals are suffering with their food and water being polluted by Indian Mynas while at the same time they spread ring worm from horse to horse. Should avian diseases strike, Indian Mynas will be a major source of infection.

These birds also contribute to the spread of fireweed. Horses, donkeys and cattle face the greatest risk of poisoning from this plant. Poultry can also be affected after eating fireweed. Sheep that eat fireweed may experience a higher copper intake resulting in liver damage

Is there a solution to the problem?

The best way currently known is to trap the birds. The Indian Myna eradication program endorses the Australian designed and manufactured "MynaX" trap.

The trap is designed to be easy to handle, recommends a humane way of disposing of the caught birds and comes with easy to follow instructions. With this trap Indian Mynas can be cleared out of localities. With enough traps in action across the country the Indian Myna menace can be controlled. Every 3,000 birds caught and euthanised with these traps means 500,000 fewer Indian Mynas in three years time.

The eradication program is based on the fact that Indian Mynas are territorial and trapping can clear out individual areas. The objective is to have traps wherever Indian Mynas are found. Because the traps are sold, should more birds arrive from another area the traps will be there to catch the new arrivals as well. The programs initial objective is to have 10,000 traps working across NSW, VIC, ACT, SA and QLD.

Three traps removed over ninety birds in four weeks in one suburb with native birds returning within four days of the last Indian Myna being euthanized. This is in line with other reported catches of thirty per trap over a three to four week period.

Based on these results we know that for every hundred traps we will catch and destroy three thousand Indian Mynas per month. Over twelve months this totals thirty-six thousand birds destroyed. The real value of this catch rate can be appreciated when you realize that these thirty-six thousand birds if they had been permitted to live and follow their natural breeding cycle would produce six million birds over a three year period.

When you consider their phenomenal reproduction rate it is easy to understand how the Indian Mynas have eradicated native bird life in other countries and will do the same in Australia if they are not stopped.

Many thousands of everyday Australians are starting to notice the effect Indian Mynas are having as the native birds disappear from areas where they were in abundance. Hundreds are purchasing "MynaX" traps, many thousands more want to hire or borrow them.

Growers are weary of the crop damage caused. These clever birds get used to kites and scare guns and ignore them when they realize they do them no harm. Netting is regarded as a challenge for them to overcome. Growers report they find holes or gaps to gain access to crops or make their own holes by destroying parts of the net. Shooting them is only successful the first time round as the next time you appear with a gun the birds move out of range. Crops that cannot be protected by nets suffer even more damage. The economic cost of crop loss is huge.

COMING SOON. Early in 2007

MynaXMobile trap.

Built into a special purpose 8' x 5' trailer the "MynaXMobile" will have the capability to remove hundreds of birds a month from our parks and streets. It will be able to be towed by a 4-cylinder vehicle and maneuvered into tight places (such as plazas) with ease through the use of a trailer dolly.

It will be able to pick-up those birds so far immune to trapping because they feed in parks and by roadsides.

Rural growers will quickly be able to defend their crops by locating this incredible trap wherever Indian Mynas and Starlings are found.

Local Councils concerned at vandalism and the theft of smaller traps will at last have the **"big gun" in pest bird control** they have been seeking. A conversion kit will be available to adapt the trap to catching pigeons which are causing havoc and polluting public areas and buildings.

The units will have their own "on Board" euthanizing system to enable fast, humane disposal of the caught birds.

Teaming the "MynaX" with the "MynaXMobile" will give Australia the chance it has been looking for. The removal of Indian Mynas and Starlings who are threatening our native wildlife. We will truly be in a position to refurbish our environment with native birds and marsupials.

Enquiries can be emailed to enquiries@indianmynaeradication.com

Local Council action plans also available.