



Living With Wildlife

MAGPIES

About Magpies

- magpies are medium-sized black and white birds
- they live where there are trees and open, grass areas
- they feed on insects and larvae, small reptiles, frogs, small mammals, carrion, fruit and food scraps
- magpies are an intelligent bird
- nesting season is early-mid August - November, with 3-5 eggs laid

Habitat and Behaviour

- Birds are purely protecting their young
- Less than 12% of males will swoop
- potential predators, who move fast toward nests can be targets - cyclists/runners/animals - dogs
- prevent swooping by engaging slowly in magpie territory
- swooping stops when fledglings take flight on their own
- make friends with your neighbourhood birds - they like quiet, calm, slow interactions, they, like humans, remember faces so be sure to chat with them so they can get to know you and not consider you threatening

Management - what to do to prevent swooping and what to do if you are swooped

Prevention

- walk/cycle slowly in nesting areas
- widen your distance, when passing nesting birds
- alter your route, to avoid nesting, aggressive birds

Swooped

- cover your head and face with your arms, but don't wave them about or yell, it will only antagonise the bird
- remain calm, walk quickly and quietly around the nesting area, don't stop walking
- wear sunglasses and/or hat when in areas where there are swooping birds

<p>Living With Magpies</p>	<p>PLEASE DO NOT FEED BIRDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • each species, of bird, has very specific dietary needs • bread is not part of any bird's natural diet: it contains no nutritional value and can cause malnourishment and serious harm • bread that is not eaten, may form bacteria that can disrupt the whole ecosystem and harm many other species • encouraging birds to gather together can spread disease between birds • birds that become reliant on humans may lose their natural foraging instincts <p>Instead, why not plant more native plants and trees in your garden, so that you can enjoy them in their natural environment</p>
<p>Council Controls</p>	<p>Council work with Wildlife Management (DEECA) if a bird is considered extremely threatening, Council may take action, otherwise magpies are left alone. Report swooping bird sightings to https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/swooping-birds</p>
<p>Awareness</p>	<p>Australian Magpies are not the only 'swooping' bird in Australia, the following also act to protect their young:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magpie Lark • Laughing Kookaburra • Red Wattlebird • Grey Butcherbird • Masked Lapwing
<p>Legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All wildlife, in Victoria, is protected under the <i>Wildlife Act</i> 1975. • It is illegal to harm or harass wildlife without authorisation • The <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act</i> 1986 - set out rules to protect all animals - domestic and wild