

Birds I

Common Mynas & European Starlings

Common Mynas have invaded our village centres.

They were brought into Melbourne from Asia in the 1860s to control caterpillars and insects in market gardens.

The Common Myna is usually found in small flocks and will quickly summon others if threatened - such as by a Currawong or Magpie.

They get pushy if there is food on offer and are sometimes referred to as “flying rats”.

Also known as Indian Mynas they are one of three birds on the ICUN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) list of the 100 most invasive species.

The Common Myna should not be confused with the native **Noisy Miner**.

The Common Myna is a member of the Starling family; whereas the Noisy Miner is a member of the Honeyeater family.



Common Myna, Molonglo Valley, ACT in 2020 (Deb Ralph)



Noisy Miner (Martin Kandilas)

The **European Starling** or Common Starling is also on the ICUN list of the 100 most invasive species.

They were introduced into Victoria in the 1850s to control insect pests in orchards but then took a liking for the fruit as well.



European Starling, Penrith Lakes NSW, 2023 (Martin Snowball)



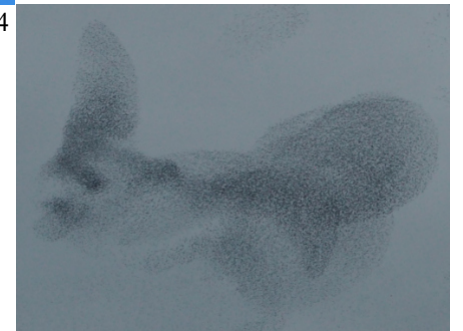
European Starlings, Symonston ACT in 2024 (Deb Ralph)

Starlings have a glossy black plumage with a metallic sheen and get “fresh” plumage in autumn that has white tips on the feathers. These spots fade after a few months.

Male and female starlings look similar.

A group of starlings is called a **murmuration**.

The term describes their aerial display when thousands of starlings move together as one, creating shape-shifting clouds in the sky. enchanting!



a murmuration of starlings, Rome, Italy in 2024 (Andra Waagmeester)

Look for Common Mynas and European Starlings. Watch a video on starlings murmuring.

Have you seen a Common Myna?

Have you watched a video of starlings murmuring?

