

Common myna

*Acridotheres tristis**



KEY FEATURES



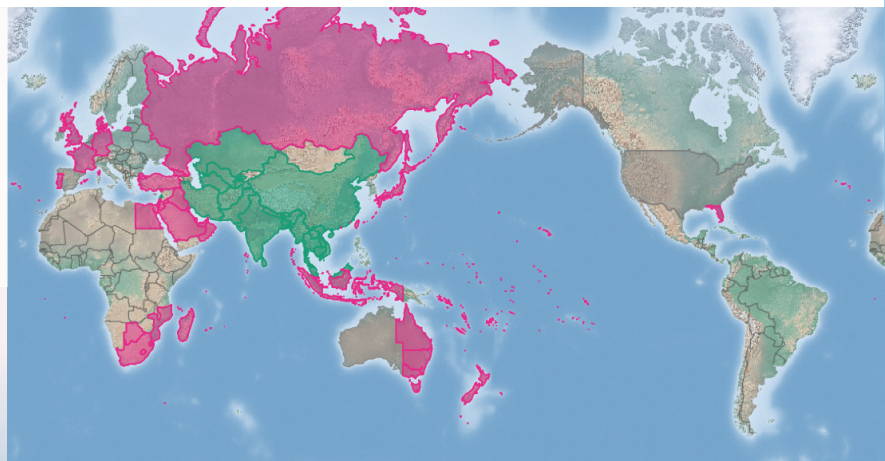
- Approximately 25–26cm in long with a relatively heavy build and a mass of 82–143 g.
- Body is chocolate-brown, and the head, neck and upper breast of the adult is glossy black, and the undertail coverts, tail tip and the outer feathers are white.
- Bill, legs and feet are bright yellow, and there is a bright yellow ring around the eye.
- The iris of the eye is grey in young but in adults the colour varies, with a base colour from grey- brown through brown to red, often with inner and/ or outer margins differently coloured within the range of grey-brown to red.
- Male and female birds are not clearly different and difficult to tell apart.
- Have a distinctive walk, rather than a hop, like most birds.
- Myna have a varied diet. They eat fruits, berries, grains, flower nectar, insects (beetle larvae and adults, caterpillars, worms, flies, snails) and spiders. They also scavenge on street litter and at rubbish dumps, on animal food and waste at farms and on roadkill.
- Most successful in human-modified habitats.



PATHWAYS

- Introduced
- Native
- Origin not recorded

- Shipping
- Biological control
- Pet trade



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IMPACTS



Environment

Competes with small mammals and birds for nesting hollows. Preys on other birds' eggs and chicks, and sometimes attacks adults of small birds. A threat to native animals, especially on islands. Carrier of Avian malaria.



Health

Large numbers roosting on roofs can potentially contaminate water supplies. Can carry bird mites that can cause dermatitis, asthma, severe irritation and rashes. Can carry arboviruses that can be transmitted to people through insect bites.



Society and Culture

Not reported, but impacts on native animals will have flow-on cultural impacts if these species are of cultural importance.



Economy

Flocks can damage fruit crops, including papaya, mangoes, bananas, carambole (star fruit), java apple, golden apple, tomato, chilli and other cultivated fruits.

DISTRIBUTION

Native range

Central and southern Asia throughout India, Afghanistan, Turkestan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, southern China and Indochina, with signs of natural spread to Iran and north into southern Russian states and former Soviet countries.

Introduced range

Parts of South East Asia, New Zealand, eastern Australia, southern Africa and Madagascar, many islands in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, Fiji, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, New Caledonia, Tokelau, (extinct) Solomon Islands, Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia.

- * On Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati and Wallis and Futuna the closely related jungle myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*) is also present. Also called Indian myna, and sometimes spelled mynah. The jungle myna is not as widely distributed as the common myna. The jungle myna is dark grey but paler below, its bill is more orange with a bluish base. Jungle myna has a very yellow eye and a tuft of forehead feathers.

SOURCES Images: © KW Bridges/University of Hawai'i via CABI (top).
© Ormond Torr via <https://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/common-myna> (bottom).
Text and map: *Acridotheres tristis* (common myna) – CABI <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/2994>



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