

Know local swooping hotspots

Swooping occurs near nests and in territories.

Know your local swoop hotspots so you can avoid the area and leave birds to look after their eggs and young.

Visit Victoria's Swooping Bird Map to find swooping hotspots in your area, and add a location to let others know about new swooping sites.



SCAN ME

© The State of Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action 2023



This work is licenced under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Australia licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>
ISBN 978-1-76136-242-2 (Print)
ISBN 978-1-76136-243-9 (pdf/online/MS word)

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone DEECA Customer Service Centre 136186, email customer.service@deeca.vic.gov.au, via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.deeca.vic.gov.au.

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Wildlife artwork by Nadia Rose (Gunditjmara) of Namaro Creative

Need more help or not what you were looking for? call 136 186



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action



Living with Wildlife Swooping Birds



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

What is swooping?

During breeding season, many birds swoop to protect their nests, eggs and chicks. Many species swoop year-round to protect their territory.

Birds can swoop people, pets or other animals. Only some birds see people as a threat and most will not swoop.

Swooping is a natural behaviour. Most swooping only lasts for a short time during their breeding season.

Birds that may swoop include Magpies, Masked Lapwings, Ravens, Magpie-Larks, Butcherbirds and Noisy Miners.

In Victoria, native wildlife is protected under the Wildlife Act 1975. Under the Act, it is an offence to kill, take, control or harm wildlife in Victoria without appropriate authorisation.



Did you know?

Swooping birds may:

- Clap their beaks
- 'Whoosh' their wings
- Screech
- Dance and posture
- Fly close to you

Swooping behaviour can be frightening. It's meant to be – this is how birds protect their eggs and young from danger.

Swooping birds rarely make contact.

What can I do?

- Avoid the area, particularly around breeding time.
- Hop off your bike and walk around a swoop site.
- Walk with a group of people, as birds tend to swoop individuals.
- Keep dogs on leads and supervise small children. Chasing and scaring birds encourages swooping behaviour
- Wear a large hat or sunglasses.
- Use an umbrella to cover your head when walking.
- Do not approach or disturb the swooping bird or chicks. This can increase swooping.
- Do not destroy nests. Swooping may last longer because birds may rebuild their nest.
- Avoid feeding swooping birds. Feeding is not good for our wildlife

