What can I do?

Magpies are very protective of their young and may swoop intruders if threatened.

Know Local Swooping Hotspots

- Avoid swooping hotspots during breeding season.
- Walk through swooping areas—don't run or ride your bike.
- Keep a safe distance, Keep dogs on leads, and supervise children.

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

SCAN ME

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Wildlife artwork by Nadia Rose (Gunditjmara) of Namaro Creative

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

VICTORIA State Government | Energy, Environment and Climate Action



Living with Wildlife

Swooping Magpies

Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Magpies are widespread and common in urban areas. Many of us will be used to waking up with their calls.

Magpies usually breed from August to October.

Their nests are usually made from small twigs, grass and other plant material in trees.

If you see a magpie chick on the ground, leave it alone. The chick is probably learning to fly. Magpie parents will likely be nearby supervising.

If you're concerned that the chick or parents being injured, contact a wildlife carer using our Help for Wildlife Tool.

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If you find a sick or injured magpie, please call a wildlife rescuer, shelter or foster carer. Call 136 186 or scan the QR code to go to the Help for Injured Wildlife Tool for a local contact.





Did you know?

Not all magpies swoop people. Only male magpies swoop and only a small percentage of males actually swoop.

Magpies can remember people and have very long memories! If you've been swooped by a magpie before, it may swoop you again.



Around the home and garden

Swooping only occurs for a short time, while birds have eggs or young chicks. Once chicks have left the nest, swooping drops off significantly.

Don't feed swooping magpies—this may only encourage swooping behaviour.

Do not interfere with, harass or attack the birds—this is illegal and may make swooping worse.

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Actions to deliberately disturb wildlife require permission from DEECA. Scan the QR code or go to wildlife management and control authorisations website.