

# What can I do?

## Know Local Swooping Hotspots

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

Avoid swooping hotspots during the breeding season.

Walk through swooping areas—don't run or ride your bike.

Wear a broad-brimmed hat and sunglasses, or carry an umbrella around swooping birds.

Protect eggs or chicks by keeping a safe distance, keeping dogs on leads, and supervising children.

Leave nests, eggs and chick alone. Masked Lapwing parents will be nearby and will return to look after their young.

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Wildlife artwork by Nadia Rose (Gunditjmarra) of Namaro Creative

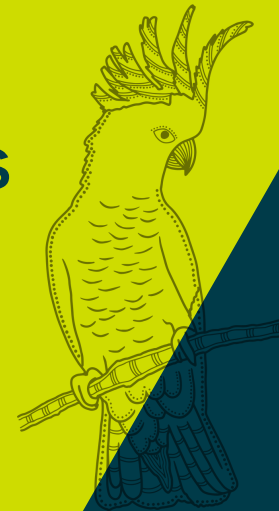
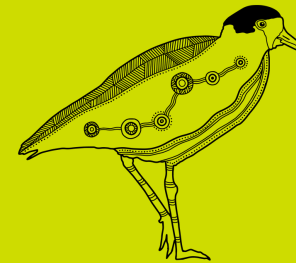
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# Living with Wildlife Masked Lapwings



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**Masked Lapwings are common in urban areas. They are usually shy, so you might not notice them until they breed in winter or spring.**

They lay around four eggs in a simple nest in open spaces.

Masked Lapwing parents are easy to recognise with their yellow masks and sharp calls. But their nests are easily overlooked. Their eggs and chicks are well camouflaged, so take care if birds are in the area.

Sometimes they choose surprising nesting spots, such as school ovals, roundabouts, front yards or even flat roofs.

Masked Lapwings are protective parents. They will defend their nests and chicks against perceived threats such as people or pets.

If you get too close, the parents may make an alarm call or swoop to deter you.



## Did you know?

**Masked Lapwings are very unlikely to make contact when they swoop. Swooping behaviour is all about noise, not contact.**

**The noise Masked Lapwings make using their beaks and wings is designed to be alarming so that you keep your distance. They sometimes even pretend to be injured to lure you away.**

**Masked Lapwings are also called Spur-winged Plovers, because of a non-venomous yellow spur on their wings.**

## 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.

If lapwings have nested on your roof before, consider putting visual deterrents or barriers up prior to the next breeding season to prevent nesting.

If the nest site is in an unsafe position, a protective fence/table/chair can be placed over the nest site so that the birds can come and go safely until the chicks are hatched.

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

**Actions to deliberately disturb wildlife require permission from DEECA. Scan the QR code or go to [wildlife management and control authorisations website](#).**



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