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| Swoop Fact Sheet  |
| Top ten tips to protect yourself against swooping birds |

Swooping birds may be a frightening or even a dangerous experience. Native birds can swoop in urban and rural areas, in parks and gardens, along bike tracks and in school yards, or anywhere that birds are nesting.

**1. Know your local swooping hotspots**

Keep informed about parks, schoolyards and bike trails in your local area by reading your local newspapers, viewing Victoria’s ‘Magpie Map’ on www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/swooping-birds or contacting your local council.

**2. Avoid the area**

The best way to protect yourself from a swooping bird is to avoid venturing into their territory.

**3. Move quickly**

If you must pass through the area – move calmly and quickly – do not run.

**4. Cover your head**

Wear a hat or carry a stick or umbrella above your head. Cyclists should wear a helmet, dismount and walk through the area.

**5. Eyes at the back of your head**

Birds may be less likely to swoop if they think you are watching them. Draw a pair of ‘eyes’ and attach to the back of hats and helmets.

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**6. Do not harass wildlife**

Don’t interfere with or throw stones at birds. This gives them added reason to see humans as a threat and may increase swooping behaviour.

**7. Do not destroy nests**

This may prompt birds to rebuild their nests, prolonging the swooping behaviour.

**8. Don’t feed swooping birds.**

This may encourage swooping behaviour.

**9. Travel in a group**

If possible, try to travel in a group in areas where there are swooping birds.

**10. Notify others**

Put up warning signs for others who may not be aware that there are swooping birds in the area, or ask your council to do so.

You can also mark a bird-swooping area on Victoria’s Swooping Bird Map at [www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/swooping-birds](http://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/swooping-birds).

