



# Magpies

## swooping

Magpies are characteristic of the Australian urban environment and their social behaviour and distinctive song provide enjoyment for many people.

Magpie pairs breed in Spring (August – October) and with this comes the magpies' natural behaviour to defend the territory around their nesting site. This may result in magpies swooping either people or pets who they perceive as a threat to their nest.

Swooping generally takes place for less than an 8 week period in spring (August to October) commencing when the adult pair is nesting and concluding when the young fledged (leave the nest).

### Magpies and the law

Magpies are protected throughout NSW, and it is against the law to kill the birds, collect their eggs, or harm their young. If you feel a magpie is a serious menace, it should be reported to the local council or nearest National Parks and Wildlife Service office.



## Reduce your chances of being swooped!

People can take the following precautions during the period when birds are actively protecting their territory.

- Do not deliberately provoke or harass the birds as this may make them more aggressive
- Take care as injuries can occur as a result of the birds striking
- Walk out of the birds territory immediately
- Avoid the swooping area by taking an alternative route.
- Wear a large, wide brim hat and sunglasses or carry an open umbrella; you can place eyes on the back of hats and umbrellas which may reduce the likelihood of the birds swooping
- Keep an eye on the bird as this may discourage attack
- Make a temporary sign to warn others

### Bike riders

- If possible take an alternative route
- Get off your bike and walk through the birds territory
- Wear a helmet and sunglasses
- Fit a bike flag to your bike

[insert council logo]

