

# WANTED!

## COMMON “INDIAN” MYNAS



Scientists from the Australian Museum Research Institute, the University of Newcastle and the University of Queensland have commenced a study investigating the invasion and range expansion of the Common Myna (also called the Indian Myna) in Australia. **We need your help collecting tissue samples**, or preferably whole dead birds, so that we can analyse their DNA. We will use genetic techniques to answer five key questions:

- How many separate introductions have occurred?
- What are the origins of particular populations?
- Are some populations more invasive than others?
- Does native vegetation act as a barrier to dispersal?
- Are populations evolving to become more invasive?

Common “Indian” Mynas are an introduced pest, and programs of trapping and humane destruction are being implemented in many locations across eastern Australia. If you are involved in a trapping program or know someone who is, we are appealing to you to help us with our research. **Further information overleaf.**

**To assist us, please contact Dr Richard Major at:**

Australian Museum: t 02 9320 6183 email: [richard.major@austmus.gov.au](mailto:richard.major@austmus.gov.au)



# Logistics for research on Common “Indian” Myna invasion

## Locations

The aim is to collect samples from at least 20 birds from each of 40 distinct locations across the species’ range in Australia. We are particularly interested in locations that are on the “invasion front”, i.e. small towns or farms that are usually inland or north of the main urban centres, where Common “Indian” Mynas are expanding their range. Ideally some volunteers will be able to collect 20 birds from one location, but we are still keen to receive single samples from volunteers living on “the front”.

## Collecting samples

Some of our questions can be answered with DNA extracted from a single feather, but other questions require larger DNA samples. Ideally we would like volunteers to collect whole birds, but if storage presents a problem, we can discuss some other options.

## Storing samples

We need you to be prepared to store the samples you collect in your freezer, or deliver them to a pick-up point. We are arranging pick-up points in several regional centres. If storage of whole birds is logistically impossible, tissue samples such as a wing and a foot will easily fit in a zip-lock sandwich bag and can be stored flat without taking up much space. We will collect all samples in April 2015 (or by arrangement).

## Essential data

It is vital that we know the location from which each sample is collected. Please use a **pencil** to write a paper label and insert it inside the zip-lock bag with each sample.

Please record:

- the street address (including house number), and/or the latitude and longitude, of the exact location where the sample was collected.
- your name and contact details (email address for preference).
- the date of collection.
- a cross-reference to any other sample collected from the same location.
- whether the bird was a juvenile (if you are able to determine this).

## More information

If you might be able to help, please contact us and we will send you detailed instructions.   t 02 9320 6183   **Email:** [richard.major@austmus.gov.au](mailto:richard.major@austmus.gov.au)

**Visit:** <http://www.amri.net.au>

**Thanks for your help!**