

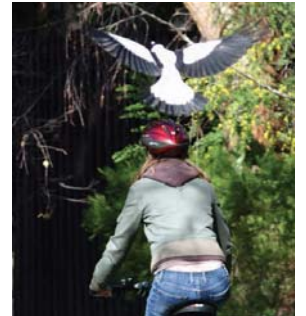
Swooping birds

WHY BIRDS SWOOP

Like most animals, magpies and other swooping birds instinctively protect their territory, particularly during spring when they are breeding.

Only males swoop, and not all males behave in an aggressive way.

Most swooping birds will not make contact. Their behaviour may be scary but not dangerous.



HOW TO AVOID SWOOPING BIRDS

- Avoid the swoop area for the breeding season.
- Wear a hat to protect your head.
- Put up warning signs for others who may not be aware that there are swooping birds in the area.
- Travel in a group. Most birds only swoop individuals.
- Hold a stick or umbrella over your head to force the bird to keep its distance.
- Do not panic and run, keep an eye on the bird instead.
- Do not harass, interfere or throw stones at birds as this only makes them more aggressive and defensive.
- Do not destroy nests as the birds may re-nest and the breeding season extended.

REMEMBER

Swooping is a seasonal behaviour and occurs during the nesting and rearing period for birds. Birds are trying to protect their babies from harm until they are big enough to leave home.

All native birds are protected under the Wildlife Act 1975 and there are serious penalties for taking, harassing or injuring native wildlife.

If a bird is particularly aggressive and causes an injury a licensed wildlife controller can remove the bird. If the bird has not caused an injury and is swooping without making contact it should be left alone.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

This information was courtesy of the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE). For more information about swooping birds contact the DSE Customer Service Centre on telephone 136 186 or visit their website www.dse.vic.gov.au

If a swooping bird is located in a Banyule Park **and** is posing a threat to park users please notify Banyule City Council's Environment Officer on 9457 9828.