

Swooping birds

Peak swooping season is August to October, but birds may swoop from June to December.

Some native birds swoop during their breeding season, as a defence mechanism to protect their nest, eggs and young. Magpies are well-known for their swooping behaviour, but other species may also swoop, including (but not limited to):

- Plovers (masked lapwings)
- Butcherbirds
- Crows
- Noisy miners
- Peewees (magpie larks)
- Noisy friarbirds

Not all birds of these species swoop. In fact, it is estimated that only 9% of magpies show this aggressive behaviour. Birds usually swoop for six to eight weeks, until their eggs have hatched and their young are grown.

Native birds are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, it is therefore illegal to harm them or interfere with their nests and eggs.

If there is a swooping bird in your area:

- Take an alternative route - the best way to avoid being swooped is to avoid the bird's territory
- Wear a hat and sunglasses or carry an umbrella to protect your face and eyes
- Dismount from your bicycle and walk through the area
- Don't wave your arms, yell or throw objects at the bird - this will likely make the bird more aggressive
- Remain calm and walk quickly through the area, but don't run - injuries often occur when people panic and run from a swooping bird

If you are concerned about a swooping bird on council land you can report it to council on (07) 3205 0555. Council may install temporary signage around the territory of a swooping bird to alert residents of its presence.

Council cannot manage birds on private property. Refer concerns about native birds on private property to the Queensland Government's Department of Environment and Science, phone 1300 130 372.



Plover (masked lapwing)



Australian magpie