

# MAGPIE DISTRESS CALL

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**SIDE ONE: MAGPIE TAPE (45 MINS)**

#### HOW

Play the tape in a "ghetto blaster" tape player to attract the birds from the surrounding district. The tape is a recording of a magpie distress call and this attracts other magpies to that spot. Decoys (e.g. crow decoys or mounted magpies) can help as this focuses incoming birds on something other than the hunter. Owl or hawk decoys are also excellent; being natural enemies of magpies they are linked to the distress call and encourage magpies to flock in to help save their fellows. While concealment is not totally necessary it certainly helps with the success rate. For example stand next to a row of trees or close to a wood pile. Once you have culled most of the birds in the area, you should repeat the cull in two to three days. Other birds (particularly young birds) will move in to establish their territories which are temporarily vacant.

#### WHY

The introduced Australian magpie has long been known to harass and kill native birds. For instance magpies often kill fantails with a blow to the body and then skewer the victim to carry it away. When magpies arrive in districts, tuis and wood pigeons seem to disappear simultaneously. Also magpies are known to attack people, sheep, dogs and other domestic stock. This is particularly so in the breeding season when territories are vigorously defended no matter the size of the intruder. They have had their protective status removed as far back as 1951.

**SIDE TWO: MYNA TAPE (45 MINS)**

The principles of shooting mynas are essentially the same as for magpies. The myna distress call similarly attracts mynas which allows the birds to be culled at close range. While these birds are not as aggressive to people and domestic stock as magpies, they still play havoc on many smaller native birds.

**Digitally recorded.**

**Rainbow Promotions**  
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