

Introduction

As we enter the swooping bird season, we kindly remind all staff and students to remain vigilant and respectful of our wildlife during the spring months. This season is a natural behaviour of certain bird species, including Australian Magpies (pictured left), Magpie Larks (pictured center), and Plovers (pictured right), who swoop to protect their nests. Swooping season typically starts in August.



Guidance and Precautions

The Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA) offers valuable guidance to minimise the risk associated with swooping birds. Please follow these recommendations:

- **Know Your Swooping Zones:** Familiarise yourself with local swooping hotspots and avoid these areas whenever possible.
- **Move Calmly and Swiftly:** If you must traverse these areas, move steadily and calmly—refrain from running.
- **Protective Measures:** Shield your head using a hat, bike helmet, or even an umbrella held above you.
- **Safeguard Your Eyes:** Wear sunglasses to safeguard your eyes from potential swooping hazards.
- **Respect Wildlife:** Do not provoke wildlife, damage nests, or feed swooping birds.
- **Travel Together:** Whenever feasible, travel in groups to reduce the risk of swooping incidents.
- **Spread Awareness:** Inform others about locations prone to swooping birds to ensure their safety.

Responding to Incidents

In case of injury caused by a swooping bird or if you encounter a swooping hazard:

1. promptly file an incident or hazard report via ERMS
2. report the swooping bird incident to your local area contact below:

BURNLEY CAMPUS

Lisa Wittick 0481 008 275

PARKVILLE CAMPUS

Service Centre 8344 0888 or extension 40888

WERRIBEE CAMPUS

Cameron Ellwood 0466 355
434

CRESWICK CAMPUS

Stacey Coyle 0407 054
110

DOOKIE CAMPUS

Reception 5833 9200

Extreme Situations

If all preventative measures fail and a bird persistently poses a danger, and there's a significant risk of injury, a licensed wildlife controller might relocate the bird. Remember, all native birds are safeguarded under the Wildlife Act 1975, and severe penalties apply to harming or disturbing them. Killing birds or tampering with their nests, eggs, or young without proper authorisation is illegal.

Let's ensure the safety of our community while respecting the delicate balance of our ecosystem. Your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines is greatly appreciated.