

Magpie

Gymnorhina tibicen

What does it look like?

Magpies are a similar size to a crow or a New Zealand pigeon.

The male has a white hind-neck, mantle, rump and shoulder patches. The upper two-thirds of the tail and under-tail coverts are also white. The rest of the plumage is black, with a blue iridescence.

The female is similar, but the mantle (shoulder part of wings) is grey, and the black parts of the plumage are less iridescent.

Both sexes have a blue-grey bill with a dark tip, and red eyes.

The black-backed magpie is similar to the white-backed forms, but with a black mantle. The female can be identified by the presence of some grey on the lower hind-neck.

Why is it a problem?

Magpies can affect native birds by excluding them from breeding territories. They may also prey on chicks and eggs to feed to their young.

They can be a considerable nuisance during the breeding season, swooping on and occasionally attacking people.



Control methods

Trapping: Many suitable traps are commercially available to capture magpie. These are all live capture traps that allow other birds to be released unharmed. Under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, see Related Links. It states a live trap needs to be checked more more than 12 hours after sunrise on each day the trap remains set. Cage traps are available to all Gisborne/Tairāwhiti residents or they can be purchased at farming supply stores.

Shooting: A method of control for landowner/occupiers following appropriate firearms regulations and safety procedures. It's advisable to inform or coordinate control efforts with your neighbours particular next to a shared boundary.

Use appropriate calibre for shooting target species.

Related links

Gisborne District Regional Pest Management Plan <https://www.gdc.govt.nz/environment/reports-and-publications/pests/regional-pest-management-plan>

Animal Welfare Act 1999 <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1999/0142/latest/DLM49664.html>

Magpie

Gymnorhina tibicen



Rules

Council will work with landowner/occupier, including developing agreements for the effective management of this pest to protect the values of specific sites.

For more information about this Rule, refer to our Regional Pest Management Plan page 44, under Related Links.

Management programme

Site-Led