

SWOOPING MAGPIES

For six weeks over spring, magpies defend their young from threats. Some magpies see us as threats—and they swoop!

If you know what to do when a magpie swoops, you can stay safe and let these birds raise their young.

SAFETY TIPS

Magpies breed in spring. Avoid an area of 150 m around a nest.

Go to www.ehp.qld.gov.au and print out a warning sign to let others know of the swooper.

If you must go near the nest of a swooper:

- ✓ Wear a hat and sunglasses or hold a school bag or umbrella over your head.
- ✓ Get off your bike and walk.
- ✓ ‘Spike up’ your bike helmet with a few cable ties.
- ✓ Walk in a group.
- ✓ Watch magpies that you see.
- ✓ Don’t fight back.
- ✓ Never approach a young magpie.

When a magpie becomes dangerous

If a magpie that is defending its nest becomes aggressive and a risk to human safety, the magpie may be removed.

Contact your local council, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service or a licensed bird relocater in the Yellow Pages.



For further information

Visit www.ehp.qld.gov.au
or phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).