

## MANAGING AN OVER-ABUNDANT NATIVE BIRD: THE NOISY MINER (*MANORINA MELANOCEPHALA*)

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1. Noisy Miners (*Manorina melanocephala*) prevent many small insectivorous birds from utilising small and degraded box-ironbark woodland remnants.
2. Noisy Miners will penetrate up to 300 m from edges into the interior of large woodland remnants.
3. Noisy Miners are more likely to colonise peninsulas and clumps of canopy vegetation protruding from the edges of large remnants, than straight edges of remnants.
4. Noisy Miners appear to dominate the more productive parts of the landscape with more fertile soils.
5. Removal of Noisy Miners results in increased bird diversity, a significant decrease in insect damage to leaves of Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) trees, and a measurable improvement in tree health in small box-ironbark remnants.
6. Noisy Miners spend a substantial proportion of their time foraging on the ground; therefore, promoting the growth of ground-layer vegetation has the potential to make a site less attractive to Noisy Miners.
7. Culling is the most humane, cost-effective and time-efficient method of reducing the impact of Noisy Miners in the short term.
8. Noisy Miner culls should be accompanied by revegetation and rehabilitation designed to deter Noisy Miners and provide habitat for colonising bird species and other fauna.

### Introduction

We have been studying the ecological consequences of the aggressive behaviour of the native Noisy Miner (see Figure 14.1) in Victorian woodlands for over 25 years. We have worked in small remnants (<10 ha) of the box-ironbark ecosystem of north-eastern Victoria, near Benalla and Violet Town (Grey *et al.* 1997; Grey *et al.* 1998), along the edges of large remnants (10 700 to 29 000 ha) of box-ironbark forest and woodland in the Goldfields bioregion of north-central