

# Swoop

## Top ten tips to protect yourself against swooping birds

Swooping birds may be a frightening or even a dangerous experience. Native birds can swoop in urban and rural areas, in parks and gardens, along bike tracks and in school yards, or anywhere that birds are nesting.

### 1. Know your local swooping hotspots

Keep informed about parks, schoolyards and bike trails in your local area by reading your local newspapers, viewing Victoria's 'Magpie Map' on [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/swoop](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/swoop) or contacting your local council.

### 2. Avoid the area

The best way to protect yourself from a swooping bird is to avoid venturing into their territory.

### 3. Move quickly

If you must pass through the area – move quickly – do not run.

### 4. Cover your head

Wear a hat or carry a stick or umbrella above your head. Cyclists should wear a helmet, dismount and walk through the area.

### 5. Eyes at the back of your head

Birds may be less likely to swoop if they think you are watching them. Draw a pair of 'eyes' and attach to the back of hats and helmets.

### 6. Do not harass wildlife

Don't interfere with or throw stones at birds. This gives them added reason to see humans as a threat and may increase swooping behaviour.

### 7. Do not destroy nests

This may prompt birds to rebuild their nests, prolonging the swooping behaviour.

### 8. Don't feed swooping birds.

### 9. Travel in a group

If possible, try to travel in a group in areas where there are swooping birds.

### 10. Notify others

Put up warning signs for others who may not be aware that there are swooping birds in the area, or ask your council to do so.

Mark a bird-swooping area on Victoria's 'Magpie Map' at [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/swoop](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/swoop).

