

SWOOPING BIRDS



As it is bird nesting season the Health and Safety Team have put together some tips on how to avoid being swooped.

Ways to avoid swooping:

- Avoid the swoop area – walk or ride a different route.
- Walk quickly and carefully away from the area, and avoid walking there when magpies are swooping.
- Log a [Maximo](#) request through FM to have signs erected.
- Magpies are less likely to swoop if you look at them. Try to keep an eye on the magpie, at the same time walking carefully away. Alternatively, you can draw or sew a pair of eyes onto the back of a hat, and wear it when walking through the area. You can also try wearing your sunglasses on the back of your head. Electrical cable ties or other spinney protrusions from bike helmets and hats etc. have been shown to reduce the likelihood of attack
- Wear a bicycle or skateboard helmet. Any sort of hat, even a hat made from an ice cream container or cardboard box, will help protect you.
- Carry an open umbrella, or a stick or small branch, above your head but do not swing it at the magpie, as this will only provoke it to attack.
- If you are riding a bicycle when the magpie swoops, get off the bicycle and wheel it quickly through the area.
- Travel in a group. Most birds only swoop individuals.

Source: NSW Government Environment, Climate Change & Water: Australian magpie at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/TheAustralianMagpie.htm>

Note: Remember to use the University's [Online Incident Reporting](#) system to report any swooping incidents using the following link: