Swooping Magpies

Between July and November, 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 between July and November. Avoid an area of 150m around a nest.
- Go to www.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, a licensed bird relocator or the Queensland Government.

For further information

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