

HOW TO ENSURE YOU'RE ELIMINATING NUISANCE BIRDS LEGALLY

Prepared by:



Since many birds are protected by federal laws, many individuals are hesitant to remove nuisance birds that have invaded their places of business. Over 800 species of birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act alone — that's a lot of birds for homeowners to try and memorize.

Since homeowners often don't know which birds are protected and which aren't, they often put up with the presence of all nuisance birds. However, there are many ways that you can prevent, deter, and repel nuisance birds from your property without breaking any federal laws.

This guide lists all of the strategies you can use to prevent birds from nesting on your property, and the strategies professional pest control companies use to repel birds — all without inciting the wrath of the federal government.



Common Nuisance and Pest Birds

There are 3 common types of nuisance birds that you should be on the look out for. By learning about the most common types of nuisance birds, you will know the risks that they pose, and why you need to prevent them from nesting on your property.

While several species of birds can create problems for home and business owners, the most common pest birds are pigeons, sparrows, and starlings.

PIGEONS

Feral pigeons are descended from the rock dove, a native to Europe. They are recognized as the top urban pest bird in cities and suburbs. Pigeons have adapted well to man-made environments, and many building designs afford multiple areas for pigeons to roost, perch, and nest.

Pigeons are a public health concern because they contaminate areas that people frequent. Pigeon droppings are acidic, which can deface and accelerate the deterioration of statues and buildings. Pigeons are known carriers of diseases including ornithosis, encephalitis, histoplasmosis, cryptococcosis, toxoplasmosis, and salmonella. They also carry disease vectors such as ticks, fleas, and northern fowl mites.

Pigeon Facts

- Height: 12.5 in.
- Wingspan: 28 in.
- Weight: 8 lbs.
- Coloring: White, black, grey, or brown with whitish rump. Secondary wings have two black bars with a black band on the tail
- Breeding Season: Spring and fall



SPARROWS

The house sparrow was introduced in the late 1800's from England. They roost in semi-protected areas both inside and outside of structures. Sparrows are social bird nesting in flocks, and typically stay within a one-mile radius of the flock during their nesting period and a four-mile radius for non-breeding adults.

Since sparrows live in close proximity to humans, they can disseminate disease and contaminate areas we frequent. Sparrows are known to carry diseases such as chlamydia, coccidiosis, salmonella, gastroenteritis, tuberculosis, and encephalitis, to name a few.

Sparrow Facts

- Height: 5-6 in.
- Wingspan: 9.5 in.
- Weight: Less than 1 lb.
- Physical Characteristics: Thick bill, short wings, and short tail
- Coloring: Males have a reddish back with a black bill, and females are brown with a lighter eye-strip

STARLINGS

Starlings were introduced into North America from Europe in the late 1800's. They are cavity-nesting birds that feed and roost in flocks. Starlings create a rasping, squawking, or squeaking sound that is harsh and unpleasant.

Starling droppings cause health concerns in rural and urban settings. The most serious of these health concerns is a fungal respiratory disease called histoplasmosis.

Starling Facts

- Height: 8 in.
- Physical Characteristics: Short tail with dark plumage that is blue or black, and a black beak that sometimes has a hint of yellow in the fall



How to Prevent Birds from Nesting on Your Property

Now that you can recognize the most common nuisance birds and the risks they pose, how can you prevent these birds? Since many birds are protected by federal laws which stop you from physically removing these birds and their nests, your best line of defense is to prevent nests from being built in the first place.

Below are the top ways to prevent and discourage birds from building nests near your home or office.

CREATE A BARRICADE

Birds seek out of the way places, such as porch eaves and chimneys, to build their nests. Often, these areas can be blocked off so birds don't have access to them. If possible, use wood or another solid material to build a barricade.

INSTALL BIRD NETTING

In areas where a solid barricade may not be feasible, such as in a garden or over an outdoor decoration, bird netting can be used. If you are concerned about bird netting being unsightly, then consider threading fishing line or black wires around the potential nesting area. According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, birds are deterred by wires, and these wires can be included in many outdoor displays without detracting from the aesthetics of your décor.

FAKE A PREDATOR

In addition to disliking wires, birds are constantly on the lookout for predators that may invade their nests. Therefore, you can scare nuisance birds away by using toy snakes or plastic owls. Simply place your fake predator in any space where a bird might seek shelter, and they will move on somewhere else they deem to be safer.

It is important to be proactive when deterring birds from building their nests, lest they get one step ahead and set up a residence that you are federally mandated not to remove.

Whether you choose a bird net, fake snake, or a combination of methods, make sure to barricade every possible nesting place to keep your building free from these nuisance birds.



How to Get Rid of Nuisance Birds

You now know how to prevent birds from nesting on your property, but what if it's too late and nuisance birds have already invaded your property? How can you get rid of these nuisance birds without violating any federal laws?

The best approach is to contact a pest control company. A professional pest control company like Bain Pest Control has bird control services and products designed to effectively and humanely eliminate nuisance bird problems and prevent future issues.

Every bird situation is different, and Bain creates a custom solution for every customer. Based on a comprehensive evaluation of your property, we'll create a bird management and control program using the right mix of approaches and products that will comply with federal regulations. All of our bird control techniques fall under the following categories: habitat modifications, bird deterrents, bird scare tactics, and bird baiting.

Below is some more information about our bird control techniques.

HABITAT MODIFICATIONS & EXCLUSION

The first step in our bird control program is assessing the building or area that is experiencing nuisance bird nesting and infestation. This area is the bird's current habitat. Habitat modification is the process of turning the environment from one that attracts birds to one that they find uninviting — even repelling.

Habitat modification can involve the use of bird deterrents (see below), but it usually involves identifying and eliminating food sources, water sources, nesting materials, and nesting areas.



BIRD DETERRENTS

Bird deterrents, as the name implies, are products that deter or discourage birds from landing and nesting in an area. Bird deterrents include:

Bird Netting: Nets are used to keep birds out of areas in and around the target building.

Bird Spikes: Spikes are simply used to prevent birds from landing on a building, and are therefore not as barbaric as they may sound at first. They come in various sizes and materials, and can be made to fit almost any area.

Bird Slopes: Bird slopes are installed to turn flat areas into sloping surfaces, making it unpleasant and difficult for birds to land and roost. Bird slopes are discreet since they are installed and painted to match the look of the building.

Electric Track Systems: Electric track systems are electrified wires installed on buildings to discourage birds from landing and nesting in the area. The wire emits a low voltage shock when a bird comes in contact with it without causing any damage to the bird.

BIRD SCARE TACTICS

Birds have a strong flight reaction when confronted with danger signals. By taking advantage of this natural skittishness, nuisance birds can be scattered and repelled from your building by simulating the sights and sounds of predators or other dangers.

Some of the most common ways bird control technicians simulate the presence of predators is by creating the appearance of raptors and other birds of prey. This is done by creating the silhouettes of hawks and falcons, or by using sound devices to discourage birds from nesting.

BIRD BAITING

Bird baiting refers to the use of a chemical frightening agent to disperse flocks of pest birds from buildings or other areas. A bird ingests the chemical frightening agent, which causes the bird to sound the alarm to the rest of the flock that the location is unsafe. The effects of the frightening agent will end within a few hours of consumption.

When bird bait is determined to be the most effective treatment solution, Bain Pest Control Service uses the utmost care to place only enough bait to effectively disperse the flock. Bain Pest Control Service currently uses Avitrol Bird Baits. For more information on Avitrol and its commitment to safe, effective bird control, please visit their website: www.avitrol.com.



If pest birds are negatively affecting your home or office, Bain Pest Control Service can help. We create individualized, custom programs based on your needs, and we're committed to using an approach that is both effective and low-impact to keep people, animals, and the environment safe.

Contact Bain Pest Control Service
today for a **FREE** estimate!



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