

Frightening

Noisemaking devices, ultrasonic devices, rubber snakes, revolving lights, and flags are not effective for pigeon control. Streams of water and nest destruction may be effective if used persistently until the birds have established themselves elsewhere.

Trapping and Shooting

Feral (wild) pigeons are not protected by federal, state, or city laws and can be live-trapped. (Plans for building live traps can be found in wildlife management publications.) Several weeks of pre-baiting (feeding the pigeons) may be necessary before the traps are set out. Decoy birds may also help attract the pigeons. Trapped pigeons must be removed daily and disposed of humanely to prevent a recurring problem. Because the firing of guns is unlawful in Milwaukee County, shooting cannot be used to control the urban pigeon population.

Poisons

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prohibits the use of most poisons for nuisance-bird control. In Wisconsin, only certified pest control operators that obtain a special permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may purchase and apply bird poisons.

To report pigeon problems or violations, call the City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services Nuisance and Environmental Section at the DNS Complaint Hot line 286-2268.

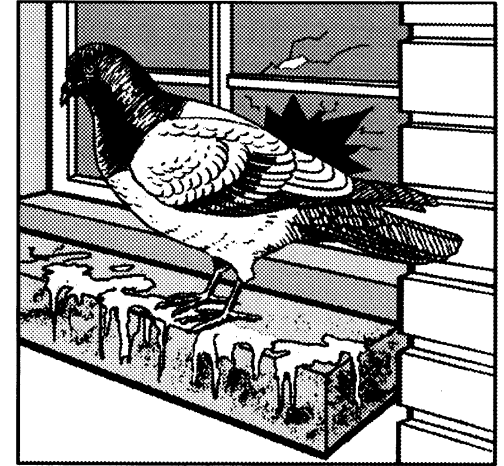
MILWAUKEE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 78, ANIMALS

Nuisance Birds. Starlings, English sparrows and feral pigeons are declared a public nuisance and may be trapped or destroyed under the supervision of the Commissioner subject to applicable federal and state regulations.

Bird Feeding. Feed for birds shall be placed in a covered hopper, gravity type feeder. The platform of the feeders shall be of reasonable size and surrounded by a ledge to deter food from blowing off. The feeder shall be placed on top of a rodent-proof pole which extends at least 3.5 feet above the ground and shall be placed at least 6 feet from the nearest climbable object or the feeder may be suspended from a tree if protected by rodent guards. Feed for birds shall not be placed on the ground where it is accessible to rodents. No more than 4 bird feeders shall be located on any premises.

Pigeon Harborage. Whenever the owner or tenant of any property in the vicinity of a premises upon which there are pigeon harborage makes a complaint to DNS of a feral pigeon nuisance and if a pigeon nuisance is found to exist, the Commissioner shall order the owner or manager of the premises to make the premises reasonably pigeon-proof and when necessary cover openings with hardware cloth or other suitable material for preventing pigeons from entering in or upon the premises.

Problems with Pigeons?

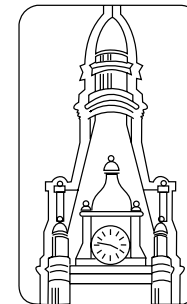


A resource guide for citizens.

- Problems carried by Pigeons
- Behaviors and nesting types
- Methods to stop nesting
- Techniques for preventing future problems
- Nuisance bird code



produced by the
**Department of
Neighborhood Services**
841 N. Broadway Rm 104
Milwaukee Wi. 53202
(414) 286-2268



**City of
Milwaukee
Department of
Neighborhood
Services**

Pigeons

The wild (feral) pigeon, often called a "flying rat," is now the most prevalent nuisance bird in most cities, including Milwaukee. Over the years the keeping of domestic pigeons has been allowed in the city, but many were abandoned or escaped. This produced a large population that has become a nuisance in urban areas. They inhabit parks and railway yards and roost on public buildings, bridges, and statues, churches, commercial buildings, and private homes.

Pigeons mate for life, which may be 15 years or longer. Breeding occurs throughout the year, and eggs are hatched in 18 days. A pair has the potential of producing nearly 600 more pigeons in their lifetime.

Public Health Danger

Pigeons may carry and transmit several diseases, including encephalitis and salmonella through their droppings. Fungus spores in the droppings may also cause histoplasmosis. These birds and their nests can also harbor mites, fleas, and other insects which can bite people or invade their homes.

Economic and Esthetic Damage

Pigeon droppings not only deface structures and produce objectionable odors but will accelerate the deterioration of wood, iron, and stone. Pigeons can also cause damage by picking the grit off of roofing materials.

How to Control the Pigeon Population

Pigeons can be controlled by limiting food sources scaring, pigeon-proofing buildings, and through the use of repellents and traps. In Milwaukee, the shooting of pigeons is illegal, and poisoning can only be done by a licensed pest control operator.

When pigeon-proofing, installing repellents, or removing pigeon droppings workers should protect themselves from disease organisms by wearing rubber or other non-porous gloves, coveralls, and dust masks.

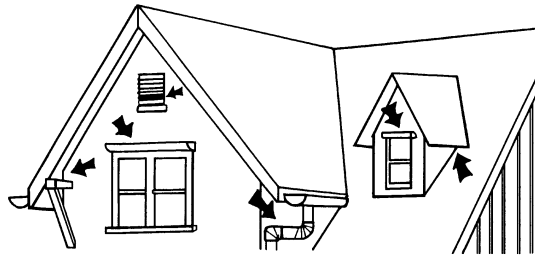
Food Control

Without a nearby source of food, pigeons will move to a new area. Grain spills in railway yards should be cleaned up, weeds controlled before seeds form, and garbage properly contained. Well-meaning people can contribute to a severe, localized problem by feeding pigeons or by improperly feeding song birds. By City Ordinance, bird feed should not be placed on the ground. Properly designed bird feeders will allow song birds to feed while denying access to pigeons or rodents.

Pigeon-Proofing

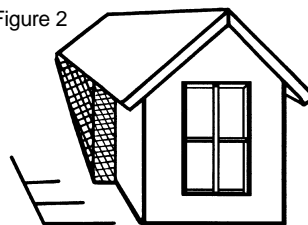
Before pigeon-proofing, remove nesting materials and clean all surfaces. Pigeon-proofing a building begins by repairing broken windows and defective roof eaves.

Figure 1
Common roosting and nesting places

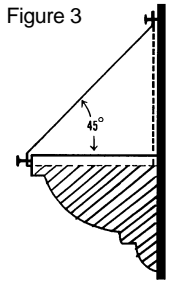


Openings to vents and balconies should be blocked with rustproof wire mesh called hardware cloth. A mesh of one-half inch will exclude pigeons and other pests. Hardware cloth, when shaped and nailed into place, can prevent access to sheltered areas provided by roof or dormers, overhangs, ledges, or rain-gutter downspouts (see Figure 2). Do not use chicken wire, as the mesh is too large and the wire will rust away within a year.

Figure 2

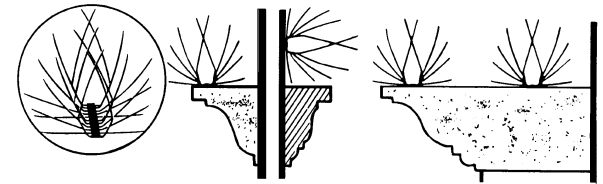


Pigeons can be prevented from roosting on ledges by changing the angle of the ledges to 45 degrees or more. Sheet metal or aluminum roll valley flashing can be bent and fastened into place. Close the ends of the angled area to prevent small birds from nesting inside the closed off area (see Figure 3).



A wire "porcupine" is a metal strip containing needle sharp pointed wires. The strip can be fastened to ledges and windowsills (see Figure 4). In some cases, pigeons may cover the wires with nesting materials circumventing this expensive pigeon-proofing method.

Figure 4



Repellents

There are a variety of non-toxic chemical-roost inhibitors on the market. These materials are usually non-drying, sticky substances that come in a tube. They make pigeons uncomfortable when they alight on a treated surface. To be effective, all roosting and loafing surfaces on a building must be treated following the manufacturer's instructions. Effectiveness is lost over time, especially in dusty areas. Most of these products last less than six months when applied outdoors in Wisconsin.