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Pigeons

Columba livia



Pigeons, also known as Rock Doves, are monogamous and will lay one to two eggs which hatch within eighteen days. Young are fed "pigeon milk" which is regurgitated food from both males and females. While mating occurs year round, the peak mating seasons are spring and fall.

Pest Stats



Color

Varies but commonly gray with a whitish rump, two black bars on wing feathers and a broad black band on the tail; red feet



Size

Up to about 11 inches; weight up to about 13 ounces



Antennae

No



Legs

Two



Region

Found throughout U.S.



Shape

Bird

Pigeon Photos



Photo of a pigeon on top of a wire



Group of pigeons on stairs



Photo of a pigeon mid-flight

Habits

Pigeons prefer grains for food and people will commonly feed pigeons unintentionally by spilling food or it in open trash containers. Pigeons roost in areas above ground and will readily nest in steeples, as well as voids on outside areas of buildings and other protected areas.

Habitat

Pigeons are dependent on humans to provide them with food, roosting and nesting sites. They are commonly found around agricultural areas as well as warehouses, feed mills, and grain elevators. They are also commonly found in cities around parks, buildings, bridges, and any other structures.

Threats

Pigeons are filthy birds, causing disease and damage. Their droppings are known for triggering human slips and falls, as well as accelerating the aging of structures and statues. This makes it imperative to get rid of pigeons in highly trafficked areas. More seriously, pigeons may carry diseases such as cryptococcosis, toxoplasmosis, salmonella, food poisoning, and more. Also, their droppings may harbor the growth of fungus, which causes histoplasmosis. Other pests may live on these birds, including fleas, lice, mites, ticks, and other pests. Pests may also infest nests such as stored product pests.

If you discover pigeons roosting on your property, contact a professional immediately to discuss a proper course of pigeon control.

Pigeon Prevention

To prevent or get rid of pigeons, homeowners need to make roosting and nesting areas inhospitable. For proper pigeon control, fill in access to voids, slope resting areas, and prevent landing by using devices. Scare balloons, plastic birds, or plastic snakes rarely work except for a very short period. Keep all food and standing water out of reach of pigeons. In commercial settings, do not pigeon feeding.

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