

FACT SHEET

BIRD CONTROL

Reasons for urban bird management

Birds are associated with dissemination of the causative agents of a large number of diseases that can affect the health of humans. These disease agents include fungi, bacteria and a variety of parasites. Diseases can be air borne or food borne. Damage from birds can cause great loss of product should it be contaminated from any of these disease agents.

A number of insect infestations in buildings are attributable to urban bird pests.

Bird droppings are a serious slip hazard, for example on pavements below bridges and roof ledges where pigeons are roosting. Bird droppings are very acid and can cause accelerated deterioration of stonework and corrosion of metals.

Where birds roost or nest or perch, they generally leave fouling. This fouling can smell unpleasant and it doesn't project a good image for a business.

Goode Pest Control will provide a solution to your bird problem by employing various methods including proofing and baiting. Each problem is assessed individually and a programme tailored to fit with your requirements.

We've kept birds out of our country's F111's at RAAF Amberley Air Base – we can keep them out of your commercial premises too.

FERAL PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

Feral pigeons are descended from rock doves and have adapted extremely well to life in urban environment. They are now found in towns and cities all over the world. Their dependence on man for food has led to them becoming a serious pest. Many buildings, both old and new, contain numerous ledges, girders and holes that can be used by pigeons as resting and/or nesting sites. Large numbers of nests are often found under bridges and in derelict buildings. The lofts of houses and commercial premises, where birds have gained access via gaps in the roof, are also common breeding sites.

Length 31-34 cm. Average weight 250-350g. There is a wide variation in plumage colour from pure white to blue-grey with double black wing bars and white rump, through various colour combinations to pure black.



STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Starlings are commonly seen, usually in groups, in both urban and rural areas. Nests can be built in holes in trees or buildings, in loft spaces, and in nest boxes. Nests are made from grass and lined with feathers, wool or moss. More nesting materials can be piled on top of a previous year's nest, so they become very large and untidy where space is not limited. Length 22cm. Weight 75-90g.



HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

House sparrows, because of their small size (14.5 cm) and agility, are very difficult to keep out of buildings. House Sparrows are very closely associated with man, and large populations occur in urban areas and in grain growing regions. Sparrows nests are built in holes and ledges often inside buildings. Domed nests of straw or grass are often built between tree branches.



GULLS

Gulls tend to be more associated with coastal areas, but there are incidences of gulls moving inland. Gull nests are usually made alongside other gulls in colonies and once a breeding site is established, the gulls will return to it year after year.



COMMON INDIAN MYNA (*Gracula religiosa*)

Common Indian Mynas can be an economic problem because they damage fruit and grain crops and their noise and smell can be annoying where they are in large numbers. Mynas can also spread mites and they have the potential to spread disease to people and domestic animals. Mynas become quite fearless of people if they are not hassled and can be a problem in outdoor eating areas by stealing food off people's plates. There are a few records of mynas attacking people, but this is not common.

Perhaps the Common Indian Myna's most serious "crime" is that it competes aggressively with native wildlife for nesting hollows. Common Indian Mynas nest in tree hollows, or places like them, such as holes in roofs. Hollows are in short supply over much of Australia because of clearing for agriculture.



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