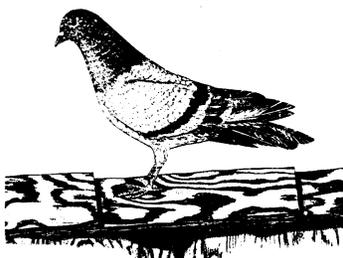


PEST CONTROL BULLETIN NO. 28

PIGEONS



Columba livia

GENERAL INFORMATION

Vagrant domestic pigeons, also known as Rock dove, live in most areas of Orange County. The abundance of shelter in most cities provide them with ample places to roost and breed. Pigeons subsist on food and shelter provided by man. The average pigeon may live 5 to 7 years.

DAMAGE AND DISEASE

Pigeon droppings deface and cause deterioration of buildings and automobiles, and leave unsightly messes on concrete and asphalt surfaces. They are responsible for the contamination of foodstuffs and are a frequent cause of salmonella food poisoning. Pigeon ectoparasites such as lice, fleas, ticks, and mites may bite man. These ectoparasites frequently invade homes from pigeon nests in or on buildings.

CONTROL

When an excessive population of pigeons cause a nuisance to humans, control measures may be necessary. Control in residential areas is best handled by one or all of the following methods.

Removal of Nests:

Populations of pigeons nesting in attics, cornices, or under eaves can be reduced by destroying their nests and eggs at two week intervals during the spring and summer months. Use a hook fastened to the end

of a long pole to tear down nests under eaves and other high nesting places.

Pigeon Proofing:

This method calls for exclusion of pigeons entering structures for roosting purposes. Openings into buildings, porticos, and other architectural features should be screened with meshed wire or boarded up to prevent pigeon access. Roosting by birds on ledges, rafters, and signs can be discouraged by covering with wire netting or installing wood or metal sheathing at a sharp angle.

Repellents:

More permanent types of repellents are those made of metal wires in the form of a bristling fence to prevent roosting. Frightening devices such as revolving lights, noise makers, or high frequency sound vibrators are not usually effective against pigeons.

This information is provided to help homeowners with their pest problems. If additional help is needed, contact your local licensed pest control operator.



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