

FieldREPORT

Ousting birds from their favorite hangouts

Jim Connelly, plant manager of Overhead Door Corp.'s plant in Lewiston, PA, had pigeon problems. "We have a 200,000-sq.-ft. building with 25 bay doors, which are left open to receive goods and raw materials used to manufacture garage doors," he says.

About 20 pigeons were nesting in the structural rafters. "It was a tremendous mess and a health hazard," says Connelly. The mess had to be cleaned up, which took two employees a couple of hours every two days. Employees tried running the pigeons out by scaring them with props, such as fake owls, but all that did was drive the pigeons to other spots in the large building. The problem had been going on for years before Connelly joined the company, and it looked like it might continue.

"The mess was getting onto products," Connelly continues. "It was out of control." The problem also posed a health issue for Overhead Door's 200 Lewistown employees, because pigeons are known carriers of disease.

After seeing an ad for Bird-X products, Connelly ordered one QuadBlaster QB-4 ultrasonic unit designed to annoy birds without harming them. The unit was installed about 20 ft. up, and within two days the birds departed. However, Connelly noticed that they merely moved to another location in the building.

Not to be outflanked, he installed a second QB-4 unit at the opposite end of the building. That did the trick. "The two units have successfully deterred the pigeons," he says. "It emits a varying ultrasonic pitch and a changing pulse pattern so birds and animals can't get used to it as they do with a constant tone," Connelly explains.

Overhead Door, with headquarters in Dallas, TX, is the nation's first garage door manufacturer and has been in business for 75 years. Connelly assumes that the company will be in business for at least another 75 yrs.—without pigeon problems. •

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