

Operation Pigeon Proof

Birds can be a darn nuisance. When they invade the workplace in large numbers, they can disrupt operations, reduce productivity, and annoy workers.

The bigger the operation, the bigger the problem can get for utility companies and governmental organizations. However, it is possible to repel pesky pigeons and other bird pests.

Case In Point

Terry Kiskhaefer, Manager of West Bend Water Utility in West Bend, WI, faced a major aggravation when blackbirds, sparrows and pigeons began picking apart his company's new 13,000-square-foot Administration and Operations Building.

"The first spring that we had our new building, we had the doors open and noticed that insulation was being dropped at the door," Terry said. "We figured out it was the birds, collecting material for their nests outside the building. It's unbelievable how smart they were!"

If left unchecked, Terry said that the birds would have totally destroyed the value of the insulation material. "The rate they were taking it out was unbelievable," he said, noting that the doors of the municipal facility were 16 feet high, 14 feet wide, and open ten hours a day.

Besides being an eyesore, the bird droppings posed a health hazard to employees. Terry was concerned about the potential for disease.

His concern was justified. Many people do not know that bird droppings, especially pigeon droppings, often contain fungi that can cause serious (even fatal) lung diseases (called histoplasmosis and crypto-

door of the building. "We were a little skeptical," he said. So the company ordered only one unit.

"It put an immediate stop to the birds coming in," he said. However, the problem did not go away. "Just like clockwork, they started coming in the other door, about 150 feet away at the other end of the building. It was really humorous." But unacceptable.

The purchase of another unit shifted the birds' flight pattern again into the Public Works Building, which is attached to West Bend Water Utility's building. "If they had their large doors open, then the birds flew all the way through the Public Works Building but stopped at our door," he said, "so we bought a third ultrasonic unit for the Public Works Building."

The ultrasonic units, in combination with the physical removal of established nests from the rafters, solved the bird problem. "We've had Bird-X ultrasonic units for two years, and we haven't had any birds since we put them up," Terry said. "Once the birds were out, they were out for good."

The units simply plug into a regular outlet. They are environmentally safe as they contain no poisons or chemicals. The high-frequency sound is unpleasant to the birds.

For more information on this subject, write in 863 on the reader service card.



An ultrasonic unit solves the problem of pesky birds without endangering the health of the birds or employees.

coccosis) when the spores are transmitted to humans who may breathe in the harmful fecal dust.

Three Strikes and They're Out

Terry sent for a Bird-X ultrasonic unit and installed it above the main