

Removing food sources is the single most important factor in reducing the number of feral pigeons and gulls in the town.

If you must feed birds then it should only be within the curtilage of your own yard or garden, and no food should be left lying around for long periods of time as this can also attract rodents into the area.

To scatter food on roads and pavements is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Proofing of empty buildings is particularly important as any access points into such buildings allows the pigeons time to establish a large colony as they are left undisturbed for long periods of time and hence have nesting places as well as roosting sites.

ADVICE TO HOUSEHOLDERS

FERAL PIGEONS



Where to Get Further Advice?

**PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICES
TOWN HALL
DUKE STREET
BARROW-IN-FURNESS
CUMBRIA
LA14 2LD**

Email: environment@barrowbc.gov.uk
Web: www.barrowbc.gov.uk

**Tel: 01229 876543
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**Barrow Borough Council
Public Protection Services**

ADVICE TO HOUSEHOLDERS

BEHAVIOUR

Feral pigeons have developed from the rock dove, dovecote and domestic pigeons. They are in increasing numbers in town centres and where they have adapted well to the artificial cliffs of buildings. They depend largely on the public for food and due to this dependence, they have become a pest fouling buildings, pavements, parklands, gardens, contaminating food stores and transmitting diseases. They rely mainly on scraps, bread, cakes and bird seed given to them by the public.

The birds normally feed in flocks and are highly efficient at finding roosting places near to a food source where they will wait until they can feed undisturbed unless they know the person who feeds them at a regular time of day.

IDENTIFICATION



SIGNIFICANCE

The fouling of buildings and monuments frequently occurs at places where they roost and nest. The acidic droppings react with chemicals in the stonework causing erosion of the surfaces. Accumulations of droppings can become infested with mites and insects which are pests of stored products and houses.

They carry many diseases and can give rise to the following: -

- Chlamydia; (Chlamydia)
- Cryptococcosis;
- Campylobacter;
- Salmonellosis;
- Erysipelas;
- Extrinsic Allergic Alveolitis (Pigeon Fancier's Lung);
- Histoplasmosis.

The following organisms and insects can be associated with birds their nests and droppings:-

- Varied carpet beetle;
- Fur beetle;
- Case bearing clothes moth;
- Brown house moth,
- White shouldered house moth;
- Larder beetle;
- Yellow mealworm beetle;
- Biscuit Beetle;
- Spider beetles;
- Blowflies;

- Common bird mite,
- Pigeon tick etc.
- Cheese mite;
- Flour mite;
- Lesser house fly;

Other problems include blocked gutters and downspouts which can cause water damage by seepage coming into the property, chimneys being blocked causing smoke problems or gasses such as carbon monoxide being forced back into the house all leading to increased costs of maintenance and risk of nuisance to neighbouring properties. Large numbers of roosting pigeons also give rise to odour and noise complaints, not to mention the risk to health and safety in terms of slipping hazards on pavements and fire escapes, from accumulations of droppings.

LIFE CYCLE

Each Female pigeon generally produces two eggs per lay. The feral pigeon however has become so well adapted to its environment that they can lay upto six clutches per year.

CONTROL

The only effective way to control pigeons and other pest species of birds is to remove food sources, remove roosting sites and breeding sites.