

TOP 10 NUISANCE BIRDS:
IDENTIFICATION, COMMON ENTRY POINTS AND CONTROL

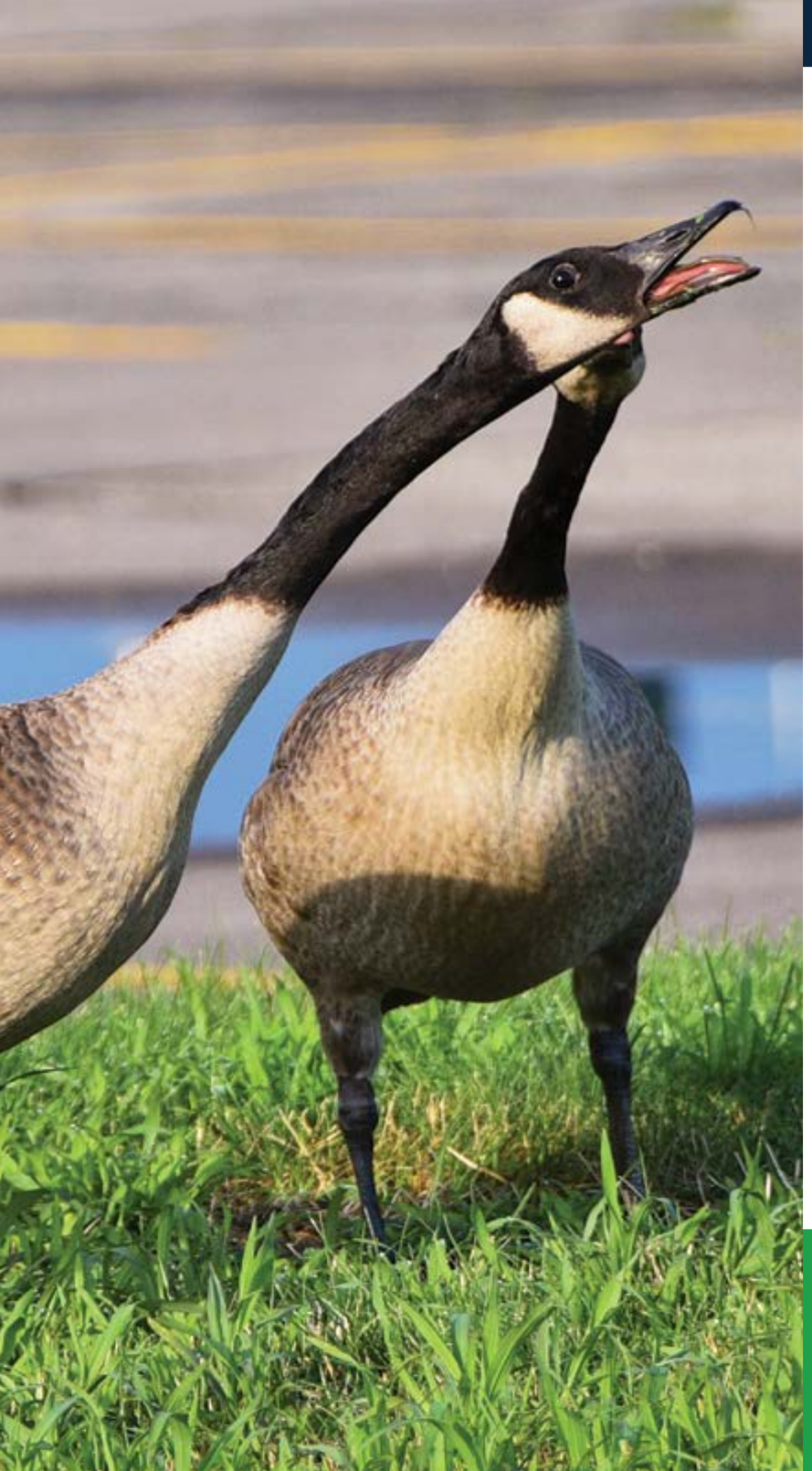
10 BIRDS KNOWN FOR DISRUPTING COMMERCIAL SPACES

Certain bird species are known for causing repeated damage and disruptions at commercial properties. Because every bird problem varies by species, location, and conditions, working with experienced bird control experts is the best way to determine the right solution for your business.

SOLUTION KEY

- Exclusion / Netting
- Trapping
- Interior removal / Single bird traps / Mist netting
- Visual deterrents
- Audio deterrents
- UV repellents
- Olfactory and vapor repellents
- Applied repellents
- Perch deterrents
- Electric track systems
- Grid systems







ROCK PIGEON



GRACKLES



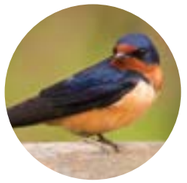
CANADA GEESE



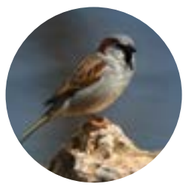
GULLS



CROWS AND RAVENS



SWALLOWS



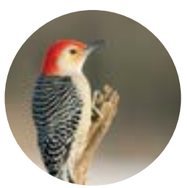
EUROPEAN HOUSE SPARROW



VULTURES



EUROPEAN STARLING



WOODPECKERS

Federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918

Not federally protected

Rock Pigeon

Pigeons are the number one pest bird in North America. They are accustomed to living among humans and take advantage of structures and human behaviors to seek out shelter and food.

Preferred congregation areas

- Rooftops and ledges
- Pipes and beams
- HVAC units
- Building signage
- Barns and grain silos
- Around solar panels
- Covered vantage points

Breeding behavior

MATING: Year-round
BROODS: 3-4 annually
EGGS: 2-3

Recommended control strategies

- Exclusion / Netting
- Perch deterrents
- Trapping
- Electric track systems
- UV repellents

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



FUN FACT

Pigeons have a strong sense of navigation – it has even be reported that they can find their way back to their nest from 1,300 miles away. If a pigeon knows food is available at your business, it will keep coming back!

Biodiversity Center, University of Texas at Austin. "Campus Biodiversity: Pigeons." Published December 2, 2019. Accessed March 12, 2024.

Protection Status

Not federally protected



Canada Geese

Recognized for their honking and flying-V formations, Canada geese are now common in southern regions. Attracted to water and open spaces, they can disrupt businesses with large droppings and aggressive behavior, especially when defending nests.

Preferred congregation areas

- Agricultural fields
- Lawns
- Parking lots
- Lawns and golf courses
- Retention ponds
- Office parks

Breeding behavior

MATING: Typically, February-April; mate for life starting around age 3

NESTING: On ground; under shrubbery

BROODS: 1 annually

EGGS: 2-8

Recommended control strategies

- Olfactory and vapor repellents
- Visual deterrents
- Applied Repellents
- Audio deterrents
- Grid systems

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



Protection Status

Federally protected



Crows and Ravens

American Crows, Fish Crows, Northwestern Crows, Common Ravens

Crows and ravens are highly intelligent, adaptable birds known for their loud “caw” and omnivorous diet, which ranges from insects to carrion. While they help control pests, large flocks can damage crops, create excessive noise and droppings, and pose challenges for businesses.

Preferred congregation areas

- Agricultural fields and orchards
- Parks and athletic complexes
- Trash cans and dumpsters
- Waste management facilities
- Healthcare campuses
- Signage

Breeding behavior

MATING: Typically, March-April
BROODS: 1 annually
EGGS: 3-9

Recommended control strategies

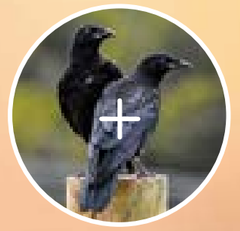
- Exclusion / Netting
- Perch Deterrents
- UV repellents
- Electric track systems
- Olfactory and vapor repellents

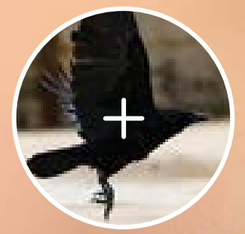
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



Protection Status

Federally protected





European House Sparrow

Non-native house sparrows thrive around humans and readily nest in tight spaces on structures. Once established indoors, they are difficult to remove and can become aggressive when defending their nests.

Preferred congregation areas

- **Interiors; difficult to remove once they have moved inside**
- **Any small, tight, protected openings: corrugated steel, dryer vents, inside building signs, and lettering**

Breeding behavior

MATING: Typically, March-August; sometimes early as January

NESTING: Build nests year-round

BROODS: 2-3 annually

EGGS: 3-8

Recommended control strategies

- Exclusion / Netting
- Perch deterrents
- Interior removal / Single bird traps / Mist netting
- Electric track systems
- Olfactory and vapor repellents

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



FUN FACT

Sparrows are dirty – literally. This species is known for taking "dust baths," where the birds will use dirt as others normally would water. This helps with maintaining their feathers and fighting off parasites.

Protection Status

Federally protected



European Starling

Starlings are a non-native species in North America, but have successfully established themselves across the U.S. and Canada. Most may recognize them for their elaborate acrobatics in large flocks in the sky known as murmurations.

Preferred congregation areas

- Commercial buildings
- Electrical and power structures
- Agricultural fields and vineyards

Breeding behavior

MATING: Typically, February-June
NESTING: Natural hollows and structures
BROODS: 2 annually
EGGS: 4-6; may lay in nests built by other starlings

Recommended control strategies

- Exclusion / Netting
- Olfactory and vapor repellents
- Interior removal / Single bird traps / Mist netting
- UV repellents

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



FUN FACT

Starlings were first brought to North America in the 1890s when 100 individual birds were set free in New York's Central Park. Their populations exploded, and Cornell University's Ornithology Lab reports that today's populations number around 200 million from Alaska to Mexico.

Cornell University Ornithology Lab. "European Starling." Accessed on March 12, 2024.

Protection Status
Not federally protected



Grackles

Common Grackle, Great-tailed Grackle, Boat-tailed Grackle

Grackles are blackbird-like birds with long tails and an iridescent sheen. Traveling in large, noisy flocks, they feed on insects, seeds, crops, and human food scraps. Their presence can create significant droppings and noise, posing challenges for businesses.

Preferred congregation areas

- Agricultural fields
- Lawns and shrubs
- Utility, communications, and industrial facilities
- Waste management facilities
- Lumber yards
- Healthcare facilities
- Resorts

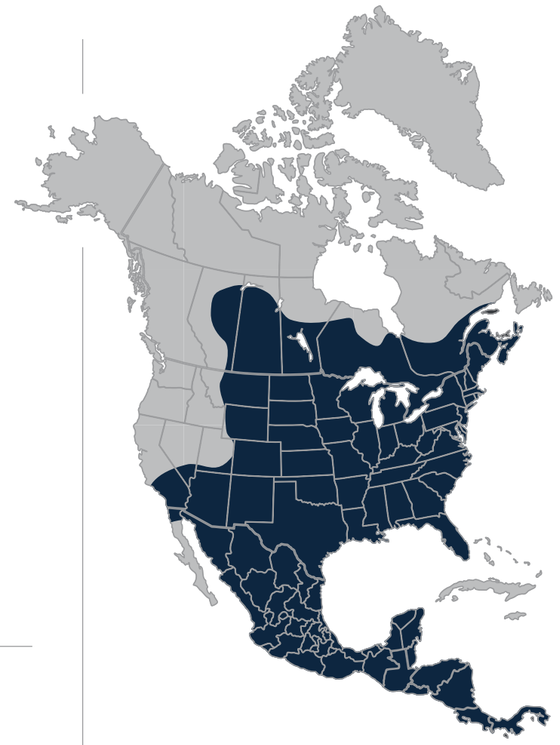
Breeding behavior

MATING: Typically, March-July
NESTING: In trees and shrubbery
BROODS: 1 annually
EGGS: 4-5

Recommended control strategies

- Exclusion / Netting
- Electric track systems
- Laser harassment
- Olfactory and vapor repellents

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



FUN FACT

Grackles, along with several other bird species, have a symbiotic relationship with ants. The birds will let ants crawl on their body. The ants secrete a chemical that helps reduce parasites on birds' bodies.

Cornell University Ornithology Lab. "Common Grackle." Accessed on March 12, 2024 .

Protection Status

Federally protected



Gulls

Herring Gull, Western Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull

Around 30 gull species live in North America. Gulls thrive near humans and can be aggressive scavengers. Their noise and droppings can disrupt businesses and homes.

Preferred congregation areas

- Outdoor dining
- Dumpster areas
- Parking lots
- Rooftops
- Agriculture areas
- Athletic fields
- Airports

Breeding behavior

MATING: Typically, February-July; species mate for life
NESTING: Ground, cliffs, or rooftops; sometimes trees
BROODS: 1 annually
EGGS: 1-3

Recommended control strategies

- Exclusion / Netting
- Audio deterrents
- Grid systems
- UV repellents
- Visual deterrents

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



Protection Status

Federally protected



Swallows

Cliff Swallows (sometimes called mud swallows), Barn Swallows

Brightly colored cliff and barn swallows build mud nests on vertical surfaces, often returning year after year near water sources. These protected birds can create challenges for businesses during nesting season, including legal restrictions and messes from mud and droppings.

Preferred congregation areas

- Bridges
- Culverts
- Barns
- Warehouses
- Building siding
- Eaves

Breeding behavior

MATING: Typically February-September

NESTING: Construct mud nests around overhangs
Cliff swallows: Nest in colonies
Barn swallows: Build solitary nests

BROODS: Cliff swallows: 1 annually
Barn swallows: 1-2 annually

EGGS: Cliff swallows: 4-5
Barn swallows: 3-7

Recommended control strategies

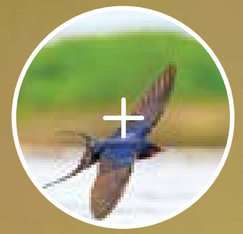
- Exclusion / Netting
- Olfactory and vapor repellents
- UV repellents

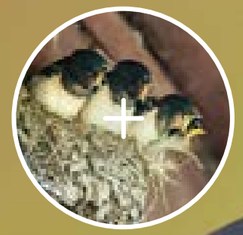
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



Protection Status

Federally protected





Vultures (Buzzards)

Turkey vulture, Black vulture

Vultures are large carrion-feeding (decaying flesh) birds that often perch high to spot food, which can bring them into conflict with businesses. Their powerful beaks can damage rooftops, cables, and equipment, and their droppings create significant disruptions.

Preferred congregation areas

- Agricultural fields and orchards
- Parks and athletic fields
- Trash cans and dumpsters
- Waste management facilities
- Healthcare campuses
- Signage

Breeding behavior

MATING: Typically March-June, sometimes earlier

BROODS: 1 annually

EGGS: 1-3

Recommended control strategies

Grid systems

Olfactory and vapor repellents

Electric track systems

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



Protection Status

Federally protected





Woodpeckers

15+ common species in North America

Woodpeckers are skilled foragers that use their powerful beaks to access insects and larvae hidden in wood. While essential in natural ecosystems, this behavior can make them a nuisance, causing damage to buildings, stucco, trees, and other landscaped areas.

Preferred congregation areas

- Commercial buildings and real estate
- Infrastructure and utilities
- Agricultural fields and land management
- Recreation and golf courses

Breeding behavior

MATING: Late March-June
NESTING: Tree hollows
BROODS: 1-2 annually
EGGS: 4-6

Recommended control strategies

- Visual deterrents
- Audio deterrents
- Olfactory and vapor repellents

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



FUN FACT

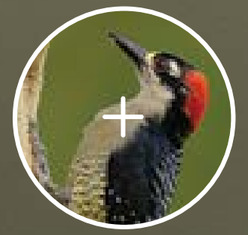
Giving new meaning to tongue-tied: Woodpeckers have a remarkable feature – their long, bony tongues wrap around their skull, providing a storage mechanism for their tongue and adding protection for the brain during repeated drumming.

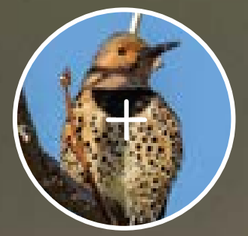
Heisman, Rebecca. "The Amazing Secret of Woodpecker Tongues." American Bird Conservancy. Published June 10, 2021. Accessed March 12, 2024.

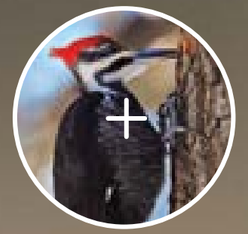
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