

BPCA

**British Pest
Control
Association**

MEMBER

Appoint a professional

The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) is the premier trade association for professional Pest Control Companies in the UK. By choosing a BPCA assessed member you can be assured that the services you receive are from a trained and trusted company that meets our strict membership criteria. The BPCA member logo is earned by our members, so ensure your contractor has it.

Further information

You can find your local BPCA member either on the website at bpca.org.uk or by calling 01332 294288.



www.bpca.org.uk

**The UK's largest
and leading pest
control association**

A professional service from a BPCA member will:

- Be carried out by a suitably trained and qualified expert committed to Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Adhere to our Industry Code of Practice
- Include detailed advice on pest prevention measures
- Provide comprehensive reporting systems covering all treatment aspects
- Meet legal and 'due diligence' requirements, comply with legislation and avoid possible prosecution
- Be safe, ensuring staff, customers and members of the public are protected through RISK and COSHH assessments

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Follow us on twitter @britpestcontrol

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Pest Advice Leaflet



Urban Birds

www.bpca.org.uk

About Urban Birds

Urban birds such as Gull, Pigeons, Starlings and Sparrows are great opportunists. Handed a ready food source and sheltered nesting site, these birds can grow rapidly and what initially attracted a few birds can soon become a thriving colony.

- **Pigeons** - The domestic pigeon is originally from Europe, Northern Africa, and India. Traditionally living in high places such as cliffs, ledges, and caves near the sea for safety. Over time they have adapted to roosting and nesting on windowsills, roofs, eaves, steeples, and other man-made structures. Pigeons typically have a grey body with iridescent feathers around their neck, a broad black band on their tail, and salmon-coloured feet, however due to breeding there are a variety of colour variations of Pigeons in the UK.
- **Gulls** - Long-lived birds (herring and lesser black backed live for around 25 years), and with each pair of adults generally producing three offspring a year, urban populations are escalating. Although typically a problem in seaside towns these birds can cause trouble when living in close proximity to man.
- **Sparrows** - Rarely a problem in domestic situations, but frequently a problem in commercial premises such as bakeries and warehouses. Sparrows are able to enter buildings through very small gaps and, once in, are very difficult to remove.
- **Starlings** - Typically a problem in the autumn and winter months as they arrive in biblical proportions to our shores from colder climates in Europe.

Why control Urban Birds?



Birds carry a variety of diseases such as Ornithosis, Listeria and Ecoli that can be transmitted to man not only from the droppings but also the birds themselves. When dry, pigeon droppings can become airborne in small particles, which can lead to respiratory complaints such as psittacosis.



Bird droppings are acidic and can corrode/erode metals, stonework and brickwork. Nesting materials birds use can block chimneys, flues and guttering, causing possible issues with carbon monoxide and damage to buildings as water overflows from blocked gutters.



Buildings covered in fouling looks unpleasant, can smell, and projects a poor image of a business, potentially ruining an organisation's reputation. If customers spot evidence of a heavy bird infestation on a premises, they may not want to do business with you.



Closely linked to bird activity such as nesting are parasites such as mites, ticks, fleas and beetles. So if you have a current or past problem with birds and have done nothing, you may find you'll suffer from a parasite infestation too.

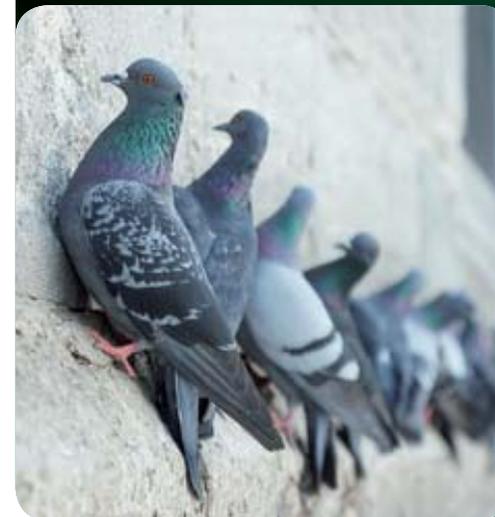
How to prevent birds

All urban birds require to thrive is a nesting/roosting sites (e.g. balconies, window ledges and roof areas of surrounding buildings) and reliable food sources. The number of birds attracted to an area will depend on what food is available. Therefore if birds are being fed, more will be attracted to that area, so it is essential that food sources are kept to a minimum.



How to get rid of birds

All bird species in the United Kingdom are protected by legislation. However, the law allows competent people such as professional pest controllers to deal with certain species that are widely accepted to be pests. You should always consult with a professional before you consider any form of bird control measures, as the list of birds that are considered pests can change on a regular basis, and even pest species must be dealt with humanely, or you may be prosecuted.



For any bird work, we would strongly recommend contacting a professional pest control company, preferably a member of the BPCA. They are trained in bird control and will have access to a range of professional use products and tools which are not available to the public.

Bird prevention, proofing and control is a highly specialised skill, requiring specialist equipment and tools.

For proofing, professional pest controllers will use methods such as barriers, spikes, nets and wire to great effect. More recently active systems like shock strips, audible scarers and optical gels have been used to create negative associations in birds wishing to land or roost on buildings.

All of these methods of proofing have their merits and some can offer a stronger and more lasting deterrent, but as with any method of control, they may become less effective over an extended period of time.

For a heavy bird infestation, your professional contractor may have to employ methods of control such as shooting, trapping or flying of predatory birds.