



BIRDS



WORK STUDY / OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFIT
NUMBER TWO



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Problems



Although most people find birds attractive and pleasant, they can present serious problems when not controlled.

Bird droppings are particularly unpleasant, being infested with disease-causing organisms and creating slip hazards.

In addition, the droppings are unsightly and can cause serious structural damage to buildings.

Nesting materials and feathers often contain many insects, which can lead to secondary infestations of properties. Birds' cooing and screening cries, such as those of the seagull, cause major unrest in both inland urban areas and seaside towns.

In addition, birds such as sparrows, starlings and pigeons can cause economic losses to food-related businesses by fouling and eating the food products being made or stored. (Starlings and Sparrows were removed from the General Licences in 2005)

Legislation

The law on bird control is covered by both British and European legislation. The two main statutes are:

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)
The European Bird Directive (1979)

Under The Wildlife and Countryside Act, there are General Licences, issued by Natural England, permitting authorised persons to carry out a range of activities, at any time, ONLY against birds of the species listed below. Authorised persons include landowners, occupiers, local authorities or any person authorised in writing by the local authority. The listed birds are:

Canada goose	Jackdaw
Crow	Jay
Collared Dove	Magpie
Great Black-backed Gull	Feral pigeon
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Rook
Herring Gull	Woodpigeon

(Other birds can be controlled via special licences)

There are national variations to the species listed on the General Licences. Before undertaking control measures, it is strongly recommended to refer to the relevant government department.

The purposes for which these licences are granted:

- To preserve public health or public safety
- To preserve air safety
- To prevent the spread of disease and preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber, fisheries or inland water.
- Conservation of wild birds

Persons relying on this licence must be satisfied that non-lethal methods of resolving the problem are ineffective or impractical.

Proofing Methods

There is a wide array of bird proofing systems on the market today to suit almost every application. The 'bird pressure' (the motivation of birds to re-gain access to a proofed area.) of the site must be assessed in order to choose the correct system.

Netting

Heavy-pressure areas are characterised by lots of fouling, nesting material and even eggs. They are very sheltered and are used by birds nesting at night. Netting is perhaps the most effective deterrent for such areas, as are some heavy-duty point systems, but may need to be supported by a local cull to remove persistent individual birds.

Medium-pressure areas are less sheltered but still heavily fouled. They are favoured daytime perching areas overlooking a food source. Netting, post-and-wire and spike systems may be appropriate in these areas. However, birds are likely to be displaced to adjacent sites.



Low-pressure areas are exposed, occasional perching places with little fouling. Any proofing system can be used including barrier coil, spikes and gel.

Bird netting systems, which screen off problem areas, can give 100% success when installed correctly. Nets come in sizes to suit house sparrows, starlings and feral pigeons, although it will successfully exclude other birds too. Netting can be specified in several colours to suit the building's masonry.

Post-and-wire systems

Post-and-wire systems are tried and tested applications, which can be used on ledges, ridges and other structures to prevent birds gaining a foothold.

Pin (Spike) systems

Pin systems (also known as spike or point systems) are simple to apply, made up of strips containing various arrangements or upright metal or plastic pins to dissuade the birds and prevent them alighting on the surface. They are very adaptable and can be used to proof a wide variety of plain or ornate buildings.

Gel systems

Gel systems are applied to ledges using a caulking gun, and then painted with a sealing fluid to create a flexible barrier to birds' feet – the sensation underfoot feels unpleasant and unstable to the birds, thus preventing perching.

Physical Barriers

Plastic strip curtain doors should always be considered for large openings where bird ingress into buildings causes problems.

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Diseases

Numerous diseases are carried or caused by birds, from both their bodies and their droppings.

Conditions caused by the fungal spores in the bird guano include 'pigeon fancier's lung' (extrinsic alveolitis), and ornithosis.

Disease-causing organisms carried by the birds and passed in their droppings or via their feeding on human foodstuffs include *Salmonella* spp., *Escherichia coli*, *Cryptococcus* spp., *Chlamydia psittaci* and *Listeria* spp., for example.

Operators working in areas where they are at risk should wear full coveralls, respirators with dust fillers (P1,P2,P3) and gloves. The application of an appropriate disinfectant, such as PX-Ornikill, during work should also be considered.

Business Opportunities

Population Control

Regrettably, there are circumstances where resident populations of birds need to be culled in order to gain control. For example, this may mean removing feral pigeons that are roosting on a flat roof.

Birds are culled in a number of ways. Some populations can be successfully removed using live catch cage traps. This is a particularly effective and humane method in skilled hands, and large numbers of birds (particularly feral pigeons) can be removed in a relatively short period of time. This method should be accompanied by effective housekeeping, so that food, usually found as spillages, and water sources are cleared. This will discourage new birds from surrounding regions from quickly filling the vacant space.

An alternative method is the selective human removal of birds by shooting with a .22 calibre air rifle. This is mostly adopted after a proofing system has been installed and when a number of resident birds try to re-enter the proofed zone. Removal of these dominant resident birds from the population is advisable to avoid failure of the system.

Population control consists of a localised cull to reduce numbers to manageable levels. It is normally undertaken when the customer requires the alleviation of a bird problem within a short period. Whilst being effective at reducing the infestation level, it does not provide a long-term solution, as repeated culling is required to prevent the population from becoming re-established. Therefore, proofing should be proposed as a long-term solution.

Building proofing

Long-term control can be obtained by preventing birds from perching or roosting on the building. A system appropriate to the level of bird pressure evident should be selected.

Following the installation of the proofing system, regular inspections should be carried out to ensure that the system is still in place and in good condition. There are instances when other contractors, such as window cleaners and electricians, may need access to the building. Any damage to the system should be reported and maintenance work carried out. A regular maintenance contract should cover all these post-installation activities.

It is likely that birds displaced by the installed system will seek an alternative nesting, roosting or perching site nearby, and so neighbouring buildings may need to be proofed in a similar manner.

Hygiene Audits

In most instances of pest infestation, a readily available food and water source makes a place conducive to pests. Birds are equally attracted to areas providing either food or water or both. One of the various ways of approaching a bird problem is to ensure effective site hygiene, by the regular removal of unwanted residual food, usually found as spillages, and water points.

Regular audits will ensure that site hygiene is maintained at an adequate level, such that the pre-existing conditions that initially attracted the birds do not reoccur. Also, inspectors should identify any new flaws and provide recommendations to the site owner. Hygiene audits should be included within a comprehensive pest control contract.

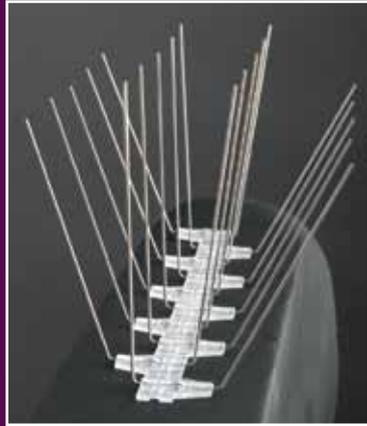


Application Equipment

The Killgerm range of products and application equipment is the most comprehensive in the industry. Whatever the need, Killgerm have the equipment and products to provide a professional solution.



Network Bird Net



Avipoint™ P20



PX-Ornikill



Network Birdwire System



Half-Mask Respirators & Filters



Full-Mask Respirators & Filters



Tyvek® Classic Plus
Coveralls Type 4, 5 & 6



Avisil/Silirub &
Avifix High Tack/Fixall



Surface Activator & Primer 150



Goggles



Plastic Gull Eggs



Scarecrow Patrol 2