



# **Advice on bird control in the Milling industry**

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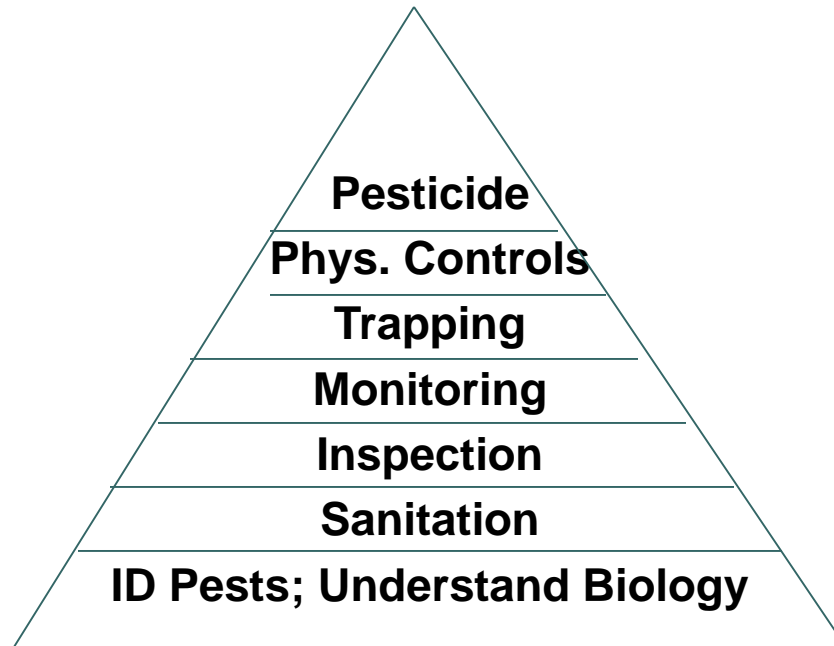
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**August 16, 2018**



# Birds: Another Pest for Applying IPM Concepts





# See bird presence through the lens of Risk

- Risk to **people**
- Risk to **property**
- Risk to **product**
- Any one or combination of the above are risks to your **profit**



# Species vary

- Pigeons, sparrows, starlings, and other pest birds vary in biology and behavior
- Large bird/small bird variance in susceptibility to different devices
- Differences in nest sites
- Differences in flight patterns, flocking, feeding and watering habits
- Differences in response to different perceived threats



# Pigeons

- Pale grey with two black bars on each wing
- Iridescent coloration along neck and wing feathers
- No sexual dimorphism
- Feed mostly on seeds and fruits
- Feed on the ground
- Roost together on buildings





# Pigeons- more

- Peak breeding in spring and summer
- Flimsy nest made by female
  - Site chosen by male
  - Materials brought by male
- 1-3 eggs per clutch
- 1-6 clutches per year
- Both sexes incubate
- Nests and plumage harbor lice



<http://www.pigeons.biz>



# Flour Mills: A Perfect Storm for Pigeon Problems!

- Tall structures appealing to cliff-dwelling ancestry. Safe places for flock roosting, sunning
- Food, water usually nearby
- Often protected ledges or nooks for nesting, whether from poor design or disrepair



# The Mill controls

## ○ Sanitation

- Grain and Product Spillage
- Harborage and roosting opportunities
- Waste handling

## ○ Inspection

- Addressing bird presence early
- Identifying and correcting maintenance issues

## ○ Exclusion

- Closed Door Culture prevents entry





# Understand the behavior at your facility

- Understand Pigeon behavior *and how and why they are using your site!*
  - Roof top flocks sunning/ seeking shade?
  - Night roosting, nesting?
  - Edge and ledge roosting in preparation for feeding?
- These points define how strongly attached birds are to your site.



# Night Rosting

- **Do not tolerate nesting!** Nesting on a site makes it a multi-generational rookery
- **Night roosting** Is the strongest attachment of birds to a site
- **Exclusion** is the only solution for overnight roosting



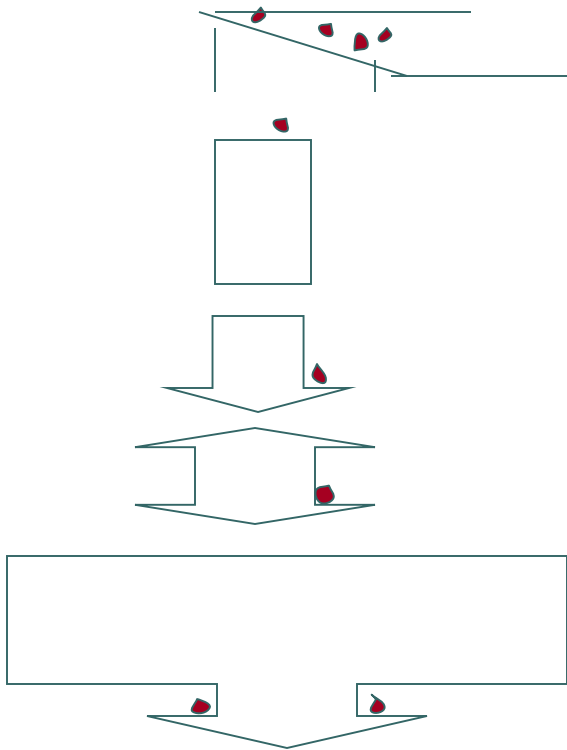
# Reduce Food Attraction!

- Spillage and blow-out control?
- Trash and dumpster sanitation and closure
- Consider whether grain dump areas could be protected by exclusion measures

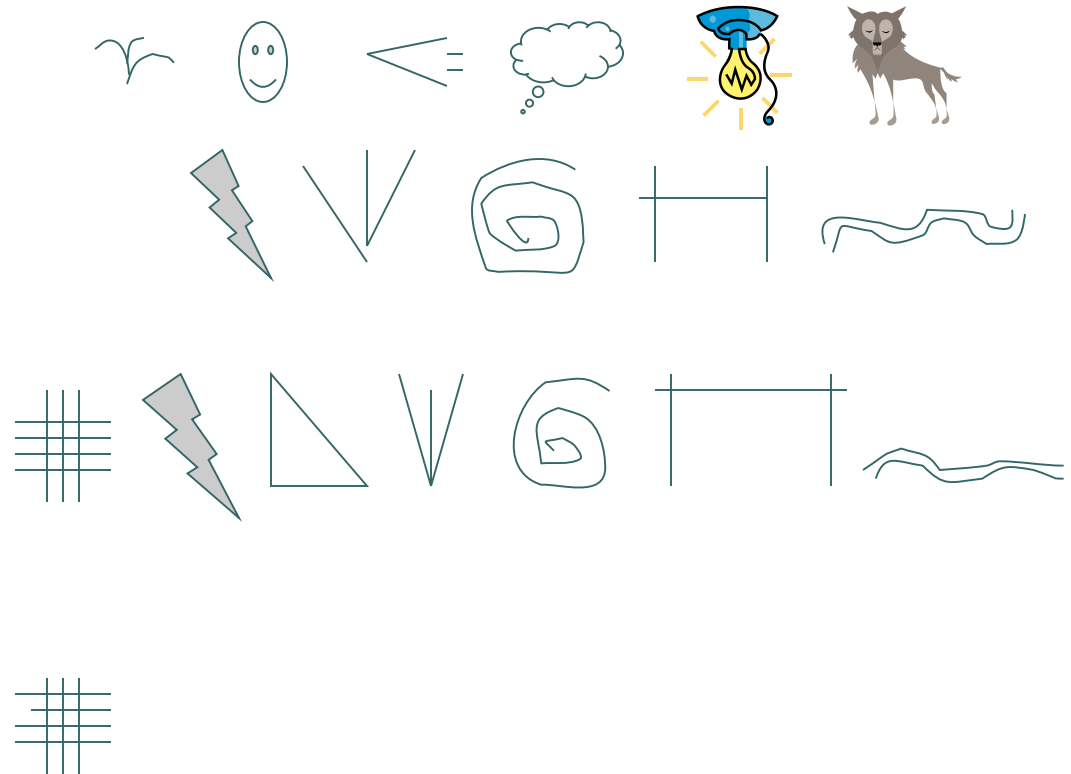


# Solutions

## Increasing Pressure



## .....Better Remedies .....





# Lethal methods- a great start

- Live trapping and harvesting with air rifle
- Labor necessary
- Remember humane treatment: Food, water, shade, etc. provided for trapped birds and disposal issues
- Speak with local law enforcement if harvesting
- A trapping technique to recommend- open door policy



# Behavioral devices

- Devices match with certain levels of “bird pressure” or attachment to a site. Know the limitations of a tactic
- Over 100 device types or tactics are available for bird control. There is no “silver bullet” solution
- The less expensive the device, the more you should think of a lottery ticket



# Pesticide Use?

## The last resort

- Avitrol Company sold and label renewed by EPA in recent years
- Applicator must be on site while bait is out
- Liability issues



# USDA, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Svc. (APHIS)

## Wildlife Control Programs

- Cost sharing programs are appearing in KC and Wichita with USDA personnel applying avicides, trapping, shooting, and even using a net cannon!
- Google APHIS Wildlife Control and consult your state lead agency





**Using a scientific  
method has the best  
results!**

**IFC Thanks you!**

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