

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PEST OF THE MONTH PROGRAM NO. 7.

CLEANING UP BIRD DROPPINGS AT SCHOOLS.

INTRODUCTION

A number of diseases are associated with pest birds that frequent human habitation. Refer to LAUSD Pest of the Month Program No. 6 for more information on pigeons.

Three species of birds are primarily found in, on, or around human structures. These birds are pigeons, sparrows, and starlings. See attached pictorial key from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare for pest bird identification purposes. These birds, their nests, feathers, ectoparasites, and droppings, when present in close association with people, pose a potential health and safety threat.

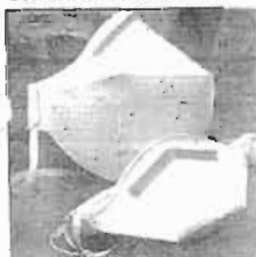
A number of human diseases are associated with pigeons, which is the number one pest bird at LAUSD schools. For example, Histoplasmosis is a respiratory disease caused by inhaling spores of the fungus, *Histoplasma capsulatum*. Pigeons do not spread this disease directly. The spores are spread by the wind and the disease is contracted by inhalation. Bird droppings enrich the soil and promote growth of the fungus.

The bacterial organism, *Salmonella typhimurium*, is the causative agent of Salmonellosis, a type of food poisoning that is a fairly common disease. These bacteria have been found in pigeons, sparrows, and starlings. This disease can be spread to people by the consumption of food contaminated with infected bird feces, or by *Salmonella* bacteria carried on the feet of birds. The bacteria are then spread when birds walk across areas where people place food down such as lunch tables, etc. I have observed pigeons on top of lunch tables at schools trying to drink water from puddles created on the tables as a result of washing them off after lunch. These pigeons commonly defecate on top of the tables after they have been washed off.

CLEANING AND REMOVING BIRD DROPPINGS FROM SCHOOL SITES.

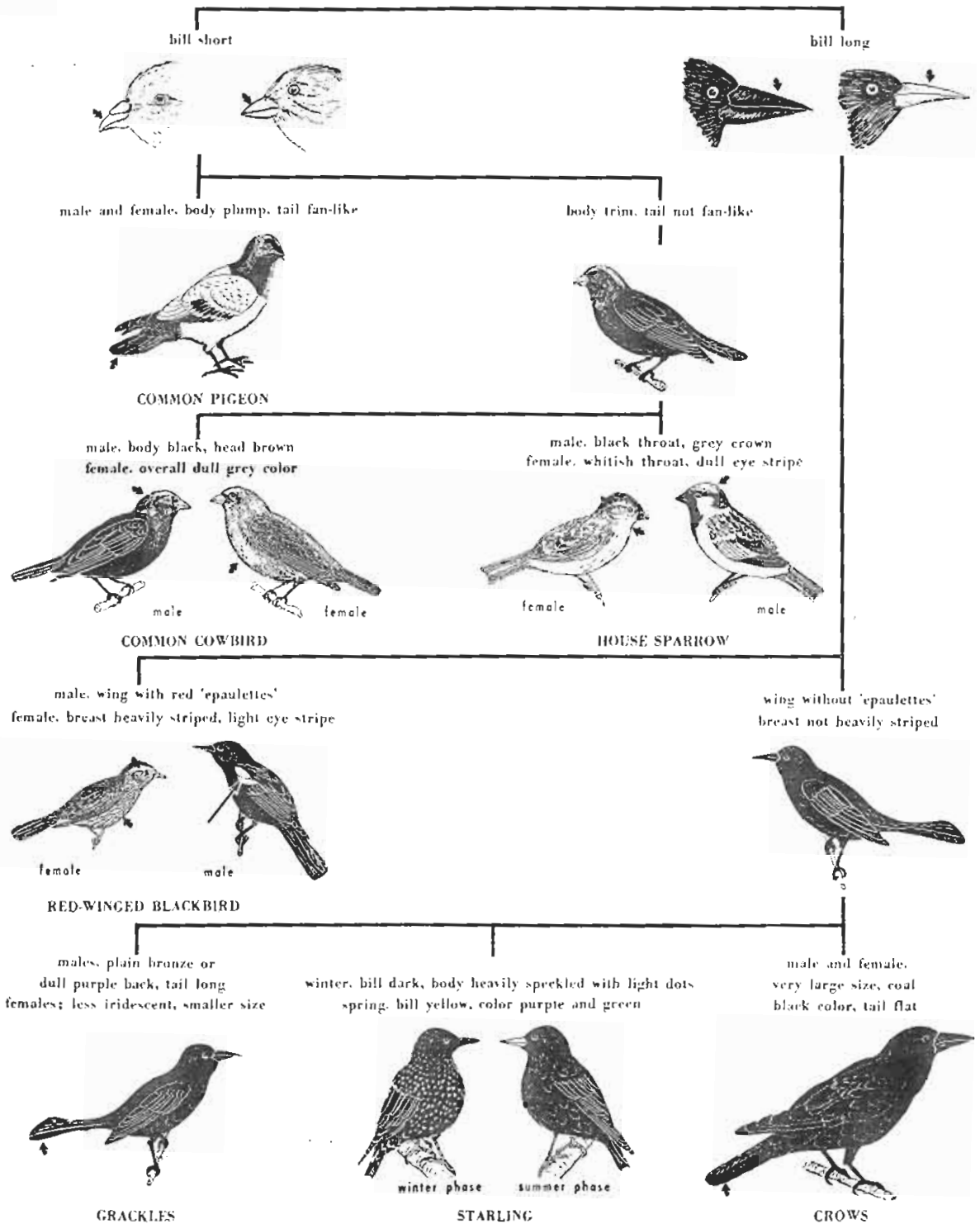
When attempting to remove bird droppings at schools, workers must take precautions to protect themselves and others from becoming infected by bird fecal microorganisms. Critical personal protective equipment needed when cleaning up bird droppings are:

Flat-Fold Disposable
Respirators Offer
Convenient Protection.



BIRDS: PICTORIAL KEY TO SOME COMMON PEST SPECIES OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE

Margaret A. Parsons and Chester J. Stojanovich



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, Communicable Disease Center, Training Branch, Atlanta, Georgia - 1964



RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Flat-fold disposable respirators filter 95% of aerosol particulates, including dust, dropping particles, animal dander, and pollen. These respirators are adequate when doing small pigeon dropping cleanup work such as on walkways, sidewalks, at building entryways, on small ledges, on wall-mounted air conditioners, etc.

It is not recommended that plant managers and/or their employees undertake major pigeon dropping cleanup work which may involve removing many cubic feet of bird manure. This type of work requires the use of full face or half face respirators fitted with high efficiency particulate air filters (HEPA). The use of these types of respirators require training in their proper use, fit testing, and medical evaluation, etc.

EYE PROTECTION

Airborne contaminants from pigeon droppings can enter the eyes when cleaning up bird droppings. In cleanup operations, pathogen entry through the eyes can be minimized by wearing unvented goggles and making sure that the goggles fit properly.

COVERALLS AND GLOVES

These PPE protect the body and clothing from bird ectoparasites, harsh cleaning agents, airborne particles, aerosols, and wet droppings. Unprotected open wounds, cuts, abrasions, sores, etc. on human bodies can permit entry of pathogens when cleaning up pigeon droppings.

CLEANING UP BIRD DROPPINGS

When cleaning up bird droppings, please exercise common sense and good judgment. Please follow these guidelines:

- Wear the necessary personal protective equipment listed above.
- The key concern when cleaning and removing bird droppings is dust control measures that eliminate or reduce dust generation during the removal of bird manure from structures.
- Wet the bird feces and surrounding area with a water spray so as to reduce the amount of dust aerosolized during clean up activities.
- Caution tape off the area to keep people away. Secure the area.
- Do not undertake bird dropping cleanup work when people are present in the area.
- Do not do bird manure cleanup work when it is windy.

- Close windows and doors in the area to prevent bird feces contaminants from entering work areas and classrooms, etc.
- Do not sweep up materials as this creates dusts and airborne particulate materials that can be inhaled and become infective.
- Do not use a vacuum device to clean up bird droppings unless the device is equipped with a HEPA filter.
- Work wet. Keep materials wet while you work. If you shovel up materials and you uncover dry areas, wet it down again with a water spray.
- Put bird droppings and other disposable cleanup materials in double heavy duty trash bags for disposal.
- Twist and tie tops of trash bags. Do not overfill bags as they become too heavy to carry. Do not drop bags from the roof of a building to the ground. Small amount of materials can be disposed of in regular trash.
- If you are going to use a power washer to clean up bird droppings, be observant and work carefully. Do the work when no one is around. Keep people away from the work area. Keep the pressure as low as possible to get the job done. Be aware of where the washed material and runoff water will flow. Try not to contaminate non-target areas. Be careful when power washing overhead. Be mindful of where the water and washed off materials will fall below.
- Be careful, be alert, be observant, and be mindful of people and the surrounding environment when you are doing bird feces cleanup work.
- Work professionally, protect yourself and others, and do the job right the first time. Ask questions if you are not sure of what you are doing.
- If you are doing bird dropping cleanup work in, on, or around air conditioners, turn off the units before you start work to prevent contaminants from entering the air handling system.
- Recommend that air conditioner filters be replaced after you have finished cleaning up bird feces in, on, or around them.

Prepared by Dr. Hanif Gulmahamad, LAUSD IPM Coordinator
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Scores from droppings and microscopic bacteria can easily enter any building if droppings are allowed to accumulate on or near air conditioning systems.



A nasty pigeon nest, consisting mainly of droppings and twigs, plays host to many parasites and diseases which can easily be passed to humans.

TULSA WORLD

Thursday, January 26, 1995, News 3

Postal Service Sued Over Slick Sidewalk

COLUMBUS, Ind. (AP) — Pigeons have landed the post office in court.

Mary Holland has filed a lawsuit claiming pigeon droppings made the Columbus post office sidewalk so slippery that she fell and suffered neck, back, shoulder, wrist, hip and ankle injuries.

Holland, 66, said she can no longer work.

The post office last year placed an electrified wire around the roof to keep pigeons away