

# Beak Speak

A publication of **Flock Fighters** USA

Fall, 2007



## Upcoming Events

Jeff and Victoria Ling will be serving as product representatives and technical advisors for RejeX-it Products at the National Pest Control Conference held in Orlando, Florida on October 17-20. If you are attending, stop by our booth (#1231) and meet with us! If not, contact us directly to discuss your nuisance bird issues.

## Did you know?

- Flock Fighters USA has received an endorsement from the Humane Society of the United States.
- Flock Fighters USA is currently the nations largest distributor of MA products.
- All RejeX-it products are general use pesticides and are listed as bio-rational by the EPA.

## A BIGGER Nuisance

With the coming of Autumn, bird behaviors change . . . and for many, it is for the worst. With the pressure of nesting gone and the prospect of winter ahead, many species of birds “group” in winter flocking behavior. Three main reasons produce this experience:

- The new fledglings swell existing populations and emulate their parents as they build their learning curve.
- Due to ingrained gregarious behavior, it is the natural expectation for the species to congregate together (The reason decoys work for bird hunters is simple, “birds draw birds!”).
- Many man-made structures and features (any place that is warm and protected from the elements, like bridges, heating ducts and overhangs) will induce birds to focus and settle there.

Several species that cause problems during the summer become much more of a nuisance when they group and roost together during the fall/winter. Here is a brief analysis of the five major winter nuisance bird species in temperate areas:

**Pigeons** – The average breeding pair can produce 4 -8 eggs each year. This means that the 2 adults that frequent your loading dock, ledge, or window-sill in March could be 8 - 10 birds in October! Those 8-10 birds will drop over 10 lbs of manure each week! In addition, it is common for multiple family-groups to congregate together— Flocks of 30+ are common in urban landscapes. Pigeons are the ultimate urban creature, able to survive almost anywhere.

**Sparrows** – These birds are typically home-bodies. They seldom venture more than a ¼ mile from their nest and can lay an egg every 30 days. The year-round mess is far more consistent than with other birds, but can be multiplied by 3X in November.

**Starlings/Grackles** – Probably no other northern bird species (starlings in the north, grackles in the south) has the potential to produce more mess than a flock of starlings or grackles. Their roosting behavior creates a “night time roost”, where the group spends all night in a one area, and the results are graphic: 500 starlings/grackles drop 2000 lbs of manure per month.

**Crows/Ravens** – The flock (called a “murder”) is communal year-round and nests together in a rookery all summer. The rest of the year, they spend nights together in the roost. Big birds in a big group means a big mess.

**Sea Gulls** – These Gulls are communal year around, but seek heat sources like flat asphalt roofs. Not only is their manure terrible, but by habit the birds also regurgitate undigested food adding to the mess.

**Canada Geese** – These birds always congregate in larger gaggles (groups of geese) as the weather cools. Each goose drops 2-3 pounds of manure per day, which means that a population of 25 geese leaves over one ton of droppings each month!

For more detailed information, read our publication “The Consequences of Nuisance Birds”, which is available for download on our website.

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**Got deer?** This large mammal has become epidemic in many suburban sites destroying landscapes. Flock Fighters USA is a leading distributor of Tree Guard. Proven in the field to be the #1 deer repellent. Easy spray application with no nasty smell; just apply to target plants and the deer won't eat. One treatment is good for the whole winter! Call us for prices and literature.

## It's That Time Again!

Fall, when nuisance birds begin to congregate, is a time when bird-control is particularly necessary. Each species of birds has peculiar habits and prefers different types of sites. This means that you must study your site and the birds living, feeding or roosting there before expelling them with Rejexit Fog Force:

**IDENTIFY** the number and species of birds to be fogged. Different types of birds respond to different fogging schedules.

**IDENTIFY** the behavior of the birds to be fogged. Determining the behavior is critical to planning the application of Rejex-it Fog Force.

**IDENTIFY** the site that is to be fogged. There is no need to fog more area than the birds are using.

Just like a military or political campaign, application of Fog Force is a planned, coordinated process that takes time and strategy. Depending on the target birds and their intended site, expulsion can last for several months to a full year, but with many species, one campaign will solve the problem once and for all.

Flock Fighters USA is available for on-site consultation and assistance. Check our website for more information! There are many informative features @ [www.flockfighters.com](http://www.flockfighters.com)! You may also contact our office directly by phone or email.