Advice on bird control in the Milling industry

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Birds: Another Pest for Applying IPM Concepts

- Pesticide
- Phys. Controls
  - Trapping
  - Monitoring
  - Inspection
  - Sanitation
- ID Pests; Understand Biology

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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

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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

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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.

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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

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Solutions

Increasing Pressure

Better Remedies

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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
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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