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Trapping Pigeons

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service
trapping Pigeons

A colony of pigeons tends to use regular feeding and roosting areas and can sometimes be controlled by intensive trapping.

General Recommendations
Set traps in inconspicuous places where pigeons commonly roost or feed and where they are not apt to be molested. Roof tops that have water from air conditioning units are excellent trapping places in the summertime.

Small traps can be used effectively, but larger walk-in types are better. They should be easy to dismantle. It is important to bait the trap with the kind of food the birds are eating. Whole corn and grain sorghum are generally good baits. Scatter a small amount outside the trap door to attract the birds. Keep a generous quantity of bait on the floor inside and near the trap door at all times. Water should also be available in traps. One or two decoy birds in the trap will tend to draw other birds. Leave the same individuals in the trap. Light-colored birds make better lures than drab, blue-gray ones. Trapped birds should be removed frequently as too many fluttering around will tend to scare others away. Birds marked with leg bands should be returned to their owners or turned over to the local humane society.

LOFT TRAPS
Birds often use attics, unused upper stories in industrial buildings, deserted factories or partially used buildings as nest and roosting sites. These indoor roosts can be made into productive traps by closing them up with screening or plastic. Leave one or two entrances open until the birds become accustomed to using them. Then fit the entrances with trap doors which can be closed from the outside at night after the birds have settled down. The trapped birds can then be caught by hand or with nets.

FUNNEL TRAPS
A simple trap can be easily made of 1 x 2 inch welded wire with a 1-1/2 inch "V" opening. This is kept from springing shut by large nails. Pigeons are attracted to a small amount of bait scattered at the entrance. They see more bait inside the trap and force their way through the small opening.

A variation of the above can be made by having the funnel on an inclined board. Pigeons pick up bait, squeeze their way through the opening, then hop down 4 to 6 inches to the floor of the trap. This use of an inclined board tends to keep trapped birds away from the entrance.

Various shapes can be utilized in making funnel traps. The lily-pad and clover-leaf shape traps are easy to set up and peg to the ground.

CONSULT STATE AND LOCAL LAWS BEFORE APPLYING CONTROLS
BOB-TYPE TRAP

This trap is capable of large daily catches and enables a person to enter and remove the birds through a small door constructed in the end of the trap. Although large traps are preferred, good catches have been made with poultry crates and other small enclosures.

The construction of a trap with 1 x 2 inch material is desirable so as to reduce the weight, which is a factor if the trap is to be moved. The use of bolts and the construction of the trap in five sections will facilitate dismantling.

The door or entrance through which pigeons are lured is the principle feature of a trap. Individual, free-swinging "bobs", as illustrated, are most practical and successful. The bobs can be made of heavy aluminum wire or lightweight metal rods. It is important that they swing upward and inward easily and drop back smoothly into slots at the base of the door.