

## Pest Tip of the Month



# Birds



### Risk

Bird infestations pose several serious health risks from slip and fall accidents to potential disease transmission. Many construction materials prematurely degrade under the uric acid and other byproducts of bird waste. Bird droppings contaminate food and water and release airborne spores that can be inhaled by clients and workers. They also carry disease-causing parasites, fleas and ticks. Bird droppings send a message of indifference, careless attention to detail and general disregard for the health and safety of employees and customers, quickly damaging a company's brand.

### Interesting Fact

Research indicates that 40% of urban sparrows carry camphylobacter, the #1 cause of diarrhea in humans.

### Facility Characteristics that Attract Birds



- Open beam and corrugated roofing designs are ideal for nesting and loafing.
- A garden area increases bird activity with desirable food plants (i.e. primroses) bird seed. Water sources such as fountains and bird baths also attract birds.
- Pest birds are naturally more prevalent in agriculturally diverse areas. Farms, vineyards, rivers, ponds, landfills, food processors/packers and other factors may attract birds.
- Flush-mounted signs, HVAC units and light-pole standards in a parking lot create convenient landing areas close to food and water sources.
- Landscaping including trees and shrubs close to entrances create staging areas for birds on their way into a facility.



### Prevention Tips

1. Birds are attracted to a site for food, water, shelter, nesting and loafing. Limiting availability of these attractants will help prevent bird activity.
2. Keep doors closed, especially in areas where birds are loafing or feeding. Leaving a door open near a dumpster is an open invitation to Sparrows.
3. Do not allow birds to nest on a structure. Subsequent generations become habituated to the structure and are incredibly committed to a site, making them difficult to move.

*While the geographical location of a facility can't be helped, there are solutions available to correct pest bird problems created by facility design elements including the installation of netting systems, landing deterrents, or even live trapping.*

# SPRAGUE<sup>SM</sup>