

PIGEONS

Common Name: pigeon

Other Names: rock dove, dove

Scientific Name: Columba livia

Appearance:

size	- typically about 11 inches in length - about 13 ounces in weight
color	- usually gray with whitish rump - black bars on upper wings and across tail - other colors include white, tan and black

Range: - abundant throughout Florida

Habitat: - prefers human-altered landscapes (esp. farms, urban areas, parks)

Diet:

- primarily eats grain, weed and other seeds
- will eat a variety of cereal or grain-based human foods

Reproduction:

- lays 1-2 eggs per clutch about every 5 weeks nearly year-round
- crude nest usually constructed on flat platforms and ledges

Behavior:

- much of day spent roosting on open ledges near food source
- prefer to roost in loosely organized groups or flocks

Problems:

- droppings from nesting and roosting birds damage and deface buildings, landscaping and other property
- droppings may carry and spread disease to humans, livestock and pets
- may transmit bird mites and other biting parasites to homes and property
- nesting birds may foul and damage air conditioning units and other mechanical devices
- noise from roosting birds may be disturbing

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Solutions:

- preventing access to roosting and nesting sites with screen or netting
- making roosting ledges uncomfortable by using porcupine wires or sticky repellents
- making roosting areas unattractive by visual repellents such as mylar or rubber balloons secured above the roost
- lethal methods in areas where they are legal

Legal Aspects:

- no state or federal laws regulating harvest or otherwise protecting this species
- use of poisons requires a permit from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
- check local ordinances before lethal methods are employed