



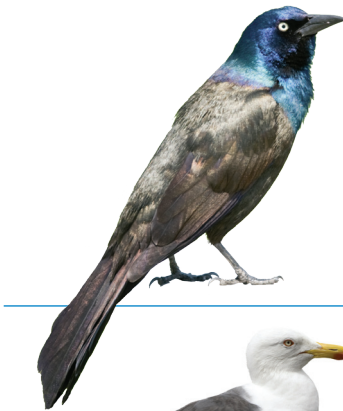
BIRD Guide

Birds can cause serious problems for your business. They carry and spread diseases through their droppings, deface buildings, produce odor and increase maintenance costs. This guide, as part of Ecolab's comprehensive pest elimination program, will help ensure you can confidently maintain a pest-free facility.



EUROPEAN STARLING

- Found across the U.S. in rural and urban areas; migrates from rural trees to warmer city buildings in winter
- Adult is approximately 8" long, stocky and short-tailed with short legs
- Color is seasonal; black with iridescent green-purple sheen and a yellow bill during spring and summer; heavily speckled with white and gold with a dark bill during winter
- Feeds on fruits, seeds, grain, insects, livestock feed, wild fruit and discarded food
- Very aggressive and drives native birds out of their territory
- Considered a nuisance due to nesting, eating and living habits; thousands overwhelm buildings and trees during the flocking phase
- Not protected by federal law



COMMON GRACKLE

- Found across the Midwest and along the East Coast
- Adult is slightly larger than a robin; male is black with iridescent areas, a long keel-shaped tail and yellow eyes; female is smaller and duller
- Roams across open fields and parks in flocks and struts on long legs pecking for food rather than scratching
- Forages for grain, insects, grasses and seeds; known to feed on mature field corn in the dent stage, removing entire kernels from the cob
- Large, noisy and gregarious, and flocks with cowbirds, starlings and blackbirds
- Protected by federal law (Migratory Bird Treaty Act)



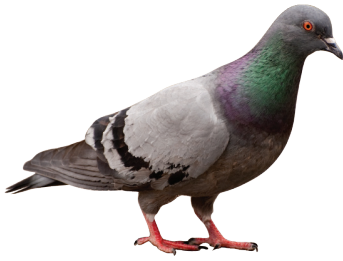
HERRING GULL

- Most commonly encountered gull species in the U.S.; found along the Atlantic coast and parts of the interior
- Adult is 23" - 26" long with a light-gray back, yellow bill with a red spot near the tip, black wingtips, and white head and underparts
- Juvenile is brown to gray with a dark band on the tail
- Scavenges for fish, crustaceans, insects, rodents and discarded food at dumps, harbors and waste sites
- Is a nuisance at piers, fields, airports, landfills and parking lots where it causes fecal contamination, noise and aggressive behavior, and roosts or nests on roofs
- May attack people or cause a disturbance by squabbling over food or territory
- Protected by federal, state and local laws



HOUSE SPARROW

- Found in most habitats except heavy forest, alpine and desert environments; prefers artificial habitats
- Most common bird in many urban centers; not a true sparrow but belongs to the weaver finch family
- Adult is approximately 6" long, small, brown and chunky; male has a black bib under its beak, white cheeks, chestnut mantle around a gray crown and chestnut-colored feathers on upper wings; female and young have a plain, dingy-gray breast, distinct buffy eye stripe and a streaked back
- Feeds on insects, weeds and seeds of grains, but eats almost any available food
- Can contaminate animal feed, cause considerable damage to crops, and aggressively drive other birds from their nesting sites and feeding grounds
- Droppings can deface buildings and nests can cause short-circuits and fires in electrical substations
- Populations may live and breed within buildings such as stores and warehouses, where they contaminate food products and other merchandise
- Not protected by federal law



PIGEON

- Most common urban bird pest; found worldwide in urban/suburban areas across North America but does not migrate and is not afraid of people
- Adult is approximately 13" long with a stocky body, short legs and neck, a small head and reddish feet; color varies between gray, white, tan and black
- Feeds on grains, fruit, garbage, insects and handouts provided intentionally or unintentionally by people
- Prefers smooth, flat surfaces for resting and feeding; flocks and builds nests on structural ledges
- 50 diseases and ectoparasites associated with the bird, its nest and acidic droppings
- Not protected by federal law or by most states



BARN SWALLOW

- Found in rural and urban areas; winters in South America and migrates to North America during summer
- Adult is approximately 6" long and slender, with a cinnamon-colored face, steel-blue coat and crown, light-colored belly, long forked tail and pointed wings
- Flies over fields and open water to feed on flying insects
- Builds cup-shaped mud nests under eaves or inside buildings that can damage and deface the structure, while feces from the colony can collect on the sides of walls or on the ground
- Potential nuisance due to nesting habits and aggressive behavior while protecting nest and young
- Protected by federal law (Migratory Bird Treaty Act)



CANADA GOOSE

- Lives in rural and urban areas in all 50 states; some are migratory and others are resident geese
- 22" - 48" tall and weighs 3.4 - 24 pounds
- Brownish gray in color with a long black neck and head, with large white cheek patches under its throat
- Nests near ponds, lakes or swamps, or on rocks or grass hammocks in the water
- Causes damage to crops year-round by trampling or eating and can overcome suburban lawns, golf courses and parks with numerous, large droppings
- Can be aggressive to humans and is becoming a threat to aircraft
- Protected by federal law (Migratory Bird Treaty Act)



WOODPECKERS

- 23 species found in the U.S., Mexico and Canada; the four species that typically cause problems are the downy woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, pileated woodpecker and red-bellied woodpecker
- Is 7" - 19" inches in length depending on species, generally black and white with red patches on their heads and black bars through the eye area
- Breed in the spring and nest in cavities inside trees, wood siding, telephone poles and fences; use strong beaks to bore holes when carving out a place to live
- Feed on wood-boring insects, berries, nuts, seeds and tree sap
- Can damage wooden structures (e.g. siding, fascia boards, wooden shingles and window casings) when they peck or drill holes to construct nests or feed on insects
- Male often drums (pecks rapidly) on woodwork or metal surfaces to establish territory or attract a mate
- Few species are migratory
- Protected by federal law (Migratory Bird Treaty Act)



CROWS

- Live in rural and suburban areas in the continental U.S.
- 18" - 21" in length, large and all black with a strong, thick build and a short, black bill; are smaller than a raven and very intelligent
- Nest 20 - 60 feet off the ground in trees and feed on almost anything, including insects, snakes, bird eggs, dead animals, garbage, food scraps and farm crops
- Northern birds fly south while southern birds stay put year-round; in fall and winter, move in massive flocks to better feeding areas
- Are agricultural pests; overwhelm trees, create noise and harass people and animals
- Uric acid in droppings can cause structural damage and harbor disease, posing a health risk
- Protected by federal law (Migratory Bird Treaty Act)