

ONE PIGEON IS NO PROBLEM...

Physical Characteristics

- 300 – 400 gm
- No sexual dimorphism
- 60% reproduce

Nutrition

- Omnivorous
- 30 gm dry matter
- 30 ml of water, daily



**THE PROBLEM IS...
THERE'S NO SUCH THING
AS ONE PIGEON!**

Life Cycle & Reproduction

- Monogamous
- Female lays 2 eggs
- Reproduce all year,
- Up to 6 clutches/year
- Life span of 2 – 3 years

Habitat & Behavior

- Resident birds
- High nest fidelity
- Easy to train, especially to food



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The Impact of Feral Pigeons (*Columba livia*) on Worker Health and Safety



PATHOGENS CARRIED BY BIRDS

ZOONOTIC DISEASE ATTRIBUTABLE TO BIRDS

FREQUENCY

“While zoonotic disease of avian origin remains infrequent, these agents have been found to cause sporadic human cases or epidemics of corresponding zoonoses.¹”



VIRUSES

DISEASE

PATHOGEN

DISEASE

Alphavirus	Eastern and Western Equine encephalitis
Sindbis virus Flavivirus	St. Louis encephalitis virus West Nile virus Tick borne encephalitis
Orthomyxovirus	Influenza

- Mosquito borne SLEV
- West Nile Virus (mosquito vector)
- *Chlamydophila psittaci*
- *Borrelia burgdorferi*
- *Campylobacter jejuni*
- Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC)
- *Salmonella enterica*
- *Cryptococcus neoformans*
- *Histoplasma capsulatum*

Ornithosis
Lyme Disease
Campylobacterosis
Diarrhea
Salmonellosis
Cryptococcosis
Histoplasmosis²

BACTERIA

Chlamydiaceae	Ornithosis or Psittacosis
Coxiellaceae	Coxiellosis or Q fever
Anaplasmataceae	Anaplasmosis
Spirochaetaceae	Lyme borreliosis
Campylobacteraceae	Campylobacterosis (food borne)
Enterobacteriaceae	<i>E. Coli</i> 0157:H7
Salmonella	
Yersinia	
Staphylococcus	
Streptococcus	
Listeria	Listeriosis
Erysipelothrix	
Mycobacteriaceae	Tuberculosis



PIGEONS BREED RAPIDLY!

Just five mating pairs can produce up to 400 pigeons in only two years. Keep the pigeons under control with contraception!

FUNGI (Accumulated Feces)

Candida	Candidiasis
Cryptococcus	Cryptococcosis
Histoplasma	Histoplasmosis ²

PROTOZOA

Microsporida	Microsporidiosis
Babeslidae	Babesiosis
Eimeriidae	Toxoplasmosis
Cryptosporidiidae	

ECTOPARASITES

Pigeon tick
Pigeon mites
Pigeon flea

TRANSMISSION

“In general, the prevailing modes of transmission of pathogens from birds to people are either via airborne or alimentary routes.”

References:

1. Bonnefory, X., Kampen, H. and K. Sweeney (2008). Public Health Significance of Urban Pests. World Health Organization. Chapter 8, pp 239-287. ISBN 978-92-890-7188-8
2. Histoplasmosis – Protecting Workers at Risk. Center for Disease Control (CDC) and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) National Center for Infectious Disease. 2004. DHHS Publication No. 2005-109.