



Pigeon Control Advisory Service
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Experts Call for Action to Deter Roof-Nesting Gulls

This year has seen yet another increase in complaints about roof-nesting gulls and the problems associated with them. Complaints about roof-nesting gulls are no longer restricted to seaside towns and coastal areas around the UK with gulls constantly moving further and further inland to exploit urban areas for the purpose of breeding. PiCAS UK receives hundreds of calls every month from property owners in central areas of England and Scotland asking for advice on protecting their properties.

Most of the problems associated with roof-nesting gulls are confined to the breeding period (March-July) and include noise, the soiling of buildings and aggressive behaviour, with few problems being reported outside this period. Many reports of gulls behaving aggressively towards human beings are wildly exaggerated and in reality they rarely arise and only when adult birds are protecting their young. These problems can be easily avoided by protecting existing nesting sites to ensure that gulls do not return the following year.

Now that the breeding period is over and most juvenile birds have fledged, property owners should be thinking about protecting their properties with deterrents and anti-roosting products to ensure that the same problems do not re-occur in 2009. Every year PiCAS UK provides this advice to a large number of property owners throughout the UK and yet very few act on the advice resulting in repeat complaints year after year.

As gulls return to the same breeding site every year it is easy to predict problems in advance and take appropriate action. If the current nesting area is comprehensively protected to prevent the gulls re-building a nest in 2009, and if all other areas of the property that could potentially be used for the purpose are similarly protected, the birds will simply identify an alternative breeding site completely resolving the problem.

Now is the time to act and install deterrents and anti-roosting products. The weather in August is good and allows for easy access to rooftop areas and this year's nests are still in situ and easy to identify.

It is extremely important to seek expert and independent advice when installing deterrents and anti-roosting products. Advice should never be taken from a company that has a vested interest in selling a product or installation service. The cost of excluding gulls from a nesting site is extremely low and PiCAS UK can provide advice to any property

owner that will empower the installation of a very effective and inexpensive system of DIY deterrents, often negating the need to buy any commercial products and services.

Emma Haskell, Director of PiCAS UK said: “We urge the public to act now to protect their property rather than waiting until the problem arrives again next year. Now that chicks have fledged and left the nest many property owners with resident breeding gulls will adopt an ‘out of sight, out of mind’ view but when the pair returns to breed next year they will be the first to complain. Gull control is straightforward and providing that a few basic rules are followed any property owner can install deterrents to their property that will be 100% effective. Many pest control companies offering gull control services, however, provide poor advice and many of the products recommended and sold fail to resolve the problem. Always seek expert and independent advice before installing deterrents.”

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For more information on PiCAS UK visit the website at www.picasuk.com or contact Emma Haskell on 02392 583540 or 07903 011715.