

Current situation and problems of management of pest birds in the cities of Ukraine

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Data are reported of research conducted over the last ten years in some large cities of the Ukraine (Kyiv, Odessa, Dnipropetrovs'k, Simferopol', Chernihiv, etc.). The main pest bird species are feral pigeon *Columba livia* and house sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Pigeons can cause damage to buildings, especially to historical architectural monuments but practical management of this problem is not undertaken in the Ukraine at present. Also pigeons cause big problems at premises used to store and process grain. Catching of birds and release in distant regions is now the only method of control used by some manufactures (beer factories, etc.). Sparrows constitute a menace for large supermarkets and bakeries, due to damage to foodstuffs and fouling with feces. Control includes catching of birds and their release outside. Cases of visitation of other species of *Passeriformes* to supermarkets have been noted in migration and wintering periods. Also rooks *Corvus frugilegus* create some discomfort for people during nesting or at winter roosts in city parks and squares. Management of rooks is not undertaken. Other traditional pest bird species (swallows, gulls, starlings, etc.) create only small local problems. Thus management of birds in the cities of Ukraine is at an unsatisfactory level and this problem should be addressed at governmental level.

Keywords: cities of Ukraine, *Columba livia*, management pest birds, *Passer domesticus*