



The Acclimatization Society

Urbanization is changing our planet; more than half the world's population today lives in cities, and this number is only going to increase. Understanding how birds adapt to urban spaces may help us understand how to protect other species. We can also learn how to design our urban places to accommodate a wide variety of species, and support a more diverse urban environment.

A. W.
NS2AC

72 26 12





Urban environments can be quite harmful to a wide variety of species. Light pollution can interfere with migration, as can collisions with skyscrapers. Even birds that seem to thrive in cities can, on examination, be suffering from toxic levels of french fries and bread. But what are the birds that have flourished here in New York City? What do they have in common?



The bird most associated with New York is the Rock Pigeon. These are the birds who are so well-adapted to city life that they barely register to rodents and rabbits, rock pigeons evolved to roost in the ledges and crannies of rocky cliffs, which is why they are happy living here in the corners and crevices of tall buildings. In cities, rock pigeons eat their traditional diet of seeds, supplemented with peanuts, french fries, popcorn, and a variety of handouts from humans.