



# Invasive Bird Dispersal Guide

September 2024



# Table of Content

---

## Section I Introduction

Vision, Mission, Strategic Goals, Detrimental Effect of Invasive Birds, Stakeholders, Glossary

---

Page 3

## Section II Applicability

Types of Invasive Birds, Geographical Jurisdiction, Technical Jurisdiction, Relevant Regulations

---

Page 5

## Section III Mitigation Methods

Architectural Design, Behavioural Contributors

---

Page 6

## Section IV Methods of Dispersal

Permitted Methods, Prohibited Methods

---

Page 8



# Section I

## Introduction

The invasive bird dispersal guide was produced by the Department of Municipalities and Transport in coordination with the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi to provide effective, humane, and environmentally responsible solutions for managing invasive bird infestation in urban and suburban settings in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Urbanization and architectural design can inadvertently create favourable conditions for certain bird species to thrive, leading to conflicts with human inhabitants, health and safety hazards, and distortion to the public appearance and cleanliness. This guide aims to offer advice to mitigate the invasive bird problem.



### Vision

To achieve and maintain vibrant, clean, and harmonious urban open spaces, while fostering a bio-diverse, healthy, and sustainable public space management and wildlife cohabitation.



### Strategic Goals

#### Uphold City Image

Elevate the global stature of our city by demonstrating leadership in innovative, humane, and sustainable urban wildlife management practices that contribute to a clean, orderly, and vibrant city appearance.

#### Implement Best Practices

Provide authoritative guidance on employing the most effective, ethical, and environmentally friendly methods for controlling invasive bird populations, with a focus on non-lethal solutions that maintain the ecological balance and visual appeal of urban areas.

#### Reduce Bird-Related Damage

Decrease the financial and structural damage caused by invasive birds to buildings, infrastructure, and crops.



### Mission

Improve the aesthetic and functional quality of urban environments through effective invasive bird dispersal, ensuring that public spaces are welcoming, safe, and enjoyable for all residents and visitors.

#### Educate and Engage

Increase awareness and engagement among stakeholders about the importance of responsible invasive bird management in preserving our urban landscapes.

#### Foster Collaboration

Encourage collaboration among municipal departments, environmental agencies, property owners, and the community to adopt a unified approach to invasive bird management that aligns with our vision of enhancing public appearance and city image.

#### Enhance Public Health and Safety

Minimize health risks associated with bird-related contaminants and droppings.



## Detrimental Effect of Invasive Birds

Invasive birds pose significant challenges to urban environments, affecting the ecosystem, native species, public health and safety, and the overall appearance of cities. These birds can disrupt the balance of local ecosystems, leading to a cascade of negative effects.

### Impact on Native Species

Invasive species may be more aggressive or have fewer natural predators than native species, giving them a competitive edge over indigenous birds. This imbalance can lead to the displacement or even extinction of native species, disrupting the ecological balance and diminishing the region’s natural heritage.

### Environmental Impact

Invasive birds can cause damage to vegetation by feeding on plants and seeds, thereby disrupting the growth of native flora or seasonal crops. Their overpopulation can lead to a reduction in biodiversity and the degradation of natural habitats, negatively impacting the environment.

### Health and Safety Concerns

Invasive birds can be carriers of diseases that are transmissible to humans, pets, and other wildlife. Additionally, their droppings can create unsanitary conditions, contributing to the spread of pathogens and posing a significant public health risk.

### Public Appearance

The presence of invasive birds can detract from the aesthetic appeal of urban areas. Their droppings can stain buildings, sidewalks, and assets, and their nesting habits can lead to damage to buildings and infrastructure.

Sidewalk littered with pigeon droppings



## Stakeholders

This guide relates to but is not limited to the following stakeholders when the need arises: Government and private entities, property owners, developers, contractors, consultants, and community members.



## Glossary

In this guide, the following abbreviations will be used to refer to the corresponding definition:

<b>DMT</b>	The Department of Municipalities and Transport
<b>EAD</b>	Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi
<b>The Guide</b>	Invasive Bird Dispersal Guide
<b>Invasive Birds</b>	Non-native bird species that have a negative impact on other bird species, the ecosystem and the balance of its components.



## Section II

# Applicability

### Types of Invasive Birds

This guide applies to the following birds, which are considered invasive birds according to the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment National Strategic Plan for Invasive Species:



**Rock Dove**  
*Columba Livia*



**Common Myna**  
*Acridotheres Tristis*



**Rose-ringed Parakeet**  
*Psittacula Krameri*



**House Crow**  
*Corvus Splendens*



**Bank Myna**  
*Acridotheres Ginginianus*



**Alexandrine Parakeet**  
*Psittacula Eupatria*



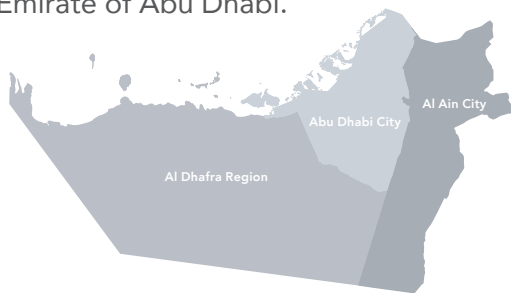
Besides the above mentioned invasive birds, if any other type of bird is nesting on the premises of your property that you would like to remove, please report the case by contacting the Abu Dhabi Government hotline or through the proper online platform so that the appropriate action is taken.

**Note:** taking a photograph of the bird from a distance will help clarify your reported case and ease procedures for the necessary entities.



### Geographical Jurisdiction

Urban and suburban areas across the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.



### Technical Jurisdiction

Standards and guidelines provided in this document are considered **mandatory** for property owners/manager **if a complaint is issued regarding invasive bird infestation in the area** affecting the public realm, city image and cleanliness.

Complaints may be raised by tenants, pedestrians, neighbours, or any other residents of the Emirate, or a case may be reported by a Municipality Inspector.

### Relevant Regulation

#### Department of Municipalities and Transport

- Abu Dhabi Building Code
- Manual for Concealment of Mechanical Equipment on Building Rooftops
- Abu Dhabi Architectural Facade Design Manual

**Note:** All relevant and non-relevant manuals, policies and guidelines must be adhered to alongside this guide.



## Section III

# Mitigation Methods



### Architectural Design

The architectural design of villas, buildings, bridges and other structures may include some elements that invite invasive birds to nest and infest the edges and subsequently pedestrian areas below. It is best to try to avoid the following elements when designing a building or a structure:

1. Avoid flat 15 cm (or more) Horizontal flat ledges with adjacent  $\sim 90^\circ$  degree angles. If a large ledge is necessary, design the adjacent angle to be at  $45^\circ$  degrees.
2. Avoid flat 4 cm (or more) surfaces on Windowsills, Signs and Parapets Walls or any other type of surface.
3. Instead of using pergolas, replace them with retractable awnings that can be used temporarily.
4. Avoid using guard grills or wrought iron grills on windows. It is preferable to use safer windows.
5. It is recommended to design the parapet in a pyramid shape or with an inward slope to reduce places that the birds can use for perching or mating.
6. Design facades to contain as few large flat surfaces as possible, which may provide places for birds to perch or mate. Utilize design features such as small protrusions or irregular shapes to make surfaces less attractive to birds.
7. Avoid having gaps between windows and decorative elements, such as exposed mashrabiya (wooden latticework) and GRC (Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete) molds.
8. Avoid excessive use of roofing tiles in the design, especially types that attract pigeons, such as clay tiles.
9. Avoid uncovered utility equipment, open-to-sky shafts or other unreachable obscure locations on building edges or roofs.
10. Design light wells and open spaces in a way that facilitates easy access for cleaning and maintenance.

Buildings infested with invasive birds



**Note:** Ensure the building is well maintained. Water leakage from pipes and water dripping from AC units may invite invasive birds to surround the building.



## Behavioural Contributors

Invasive birds might also surround buildings and locations that exhibit the following behavioural contributors. These should be avoided to circumvent invasive bird infestation:

1



### Unemptied waste bins and littering

Make sure waste bins and waste collection rooms for buildings remain shut and are well operated and maintained to avoid a fine\* of 3,000 AED.

2



### Unclean building surroundings

Dumping waste (especially organic waste) or water on the ground is a contributor to infestation from invasive birds and is punishable by a fine\* of 1,000 AED or more in case of repeat offence.

3



### Providing or scattering grain or food waste for birds

Feeding birds by dumping grains or food waste or keeping them on window sills or balconies contributes to the increase in invasive birds in the area and their effects.

4



### Improperly feeding stray animals

While feeding stray cats using appropriate cat food and containers is not against the law, leaving leftover food in public spaces attracts invasive birds and is punishable by a fine\* of 1,000 AED or more in case of repeat offence.

5



### Providing water sources

Leaving water tank lids open and providing a source of water attracts invasive birds to the area among other pests. Always ensure no water leaks are present around your property and no unintentional water sources are provided.

6



### Planting Damas trees

Damas trees (*Conocarpus lancifolius*), provide birds with shelter and nesting areas. Damas trees are considered a nuisance because they can contribute to overpopulation of invasive bird species, which can lead to issues like noise, droppings, and damage to nearby assets.

7



### Pigeon Coop on Rooftops

Sheltering pigeons in a coop in urban and suburban areas or providing shaded areas and water features may disturb your neighbors and contribute to overpopulation.

\*As per the provisions of Law No. (2) of 2012 regarding the preservation of public appearance, health, and public tranquility in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and its amendments, specific to the Department of Municipalities and Transport.



# Section IV

## Methods of Dispersal



### Permitted Methods



#### Auditory Scares

Ultrasonics, Distress & Predators sounds can scare off invasive birds.

Note: This method may only be implemented on high-rise building rooftops and away from parks.



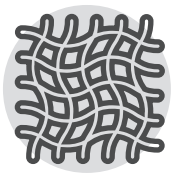
#### Visual Scares

Visual methods such as predatory bird decoys or a moving fan-shaped device can be effective in scaring away invasive birds when applied.



#### Bird Spikes or Reflective Tape

One of the most common methods of averting invasive birds from building edges is bird spikes that can cause them discomfort or placing reflective that helps scare them away without affecting the building.



#### Bird Netting

This method will help by closing section off entirely from invasive birds.

Note: Use a type of netting that is not visually obstructive.



#### Bird Aversion Gels

These non-toxic gels can help by repelling invasive birds through the scent they produce.



### Prohibited Methods



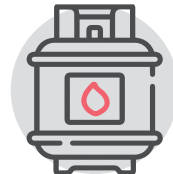
#### Lethal Bird Control

Avoid using harmful bird control measures such as poison or electricity or any other kind.



#### Projectiles of Any Kind

Using projectiles in general is prohibited, as that may cause property damage or unforeseeable injuries. Do not throw objects or use any type of gun or firearm.



#### Any Other Non-permitted Methods

Any other methods (Such as Propane Gas Cannons) that have not been mentioned as a permitted method of dispersal is prohibited.

When implementing one of the permitted methods of dismissing the invasive birds shown below, the following basic guidelines should be taken into consideration:



#### Proper Installation

Ensure that the method used is properly fixed in place and is not easily displaced or blown away by the wind, which may cause injury to someone.



#### Avoid Causing a Disturbance

Methods implemented shall not disturb the surrounding area and should be implemented in a visually appealing way.



#### Contact a Professional

In all cases, it is best to contact a professional to implement the most suitable permitted method.

