

# WILLOWS ANNUAL BIRD RESPONSE EFFORT

## Stop Birds Before They Nest

Contact the “Bird Hotline” (530) 934-1501 to report bird activity.



Heron and Egret colonies are protected by the Migratory Bird Act of 1918. Action can be taken prior to nests becoming established. Annual urban nesting is a major nuisance and health hazards specific to these species are more likely to occur from multi-year presence, yet precautions are necessary. Below are some recommendations to assist with cleaning the droppings that can accumulate.

**Federal Law prohibits the disturbance of the birds once their nesting is established, so deterrent efforts must be timely to be effective ([www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/migtrea.html](http://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/migtrea.html)).**

### **DETERRENT PROCEDURE:**

- 1) Discourage reuse of old nesting sites by removing nests before birds return.
- 2) As birds return, use noise to discourage the site from taking hold by clapping two boards or pans together, but the key is that it must be kept up to be effective.
- 3) Call the hotline for further assistance and to keep the birds moving to a non-urban location.

### **CLEAN UP PROCEDURE FOR BIRD DROPPINGS:**

#### **RULES:**

- 1) Only healthy (not immune-compromised) individuals may perform clean ups.
- 2) Do not create and inhale dust from bird droppings.
- 3) No dry sweeping or dry clean up.
- 4) No eating, drinking or smoking during clean up.
- 5) Consult officials before clean up inside occupied buildings, in enclosed spaces, or near building ventilation systems.
- 6) Do not handle dead birds or bats – treat as if contaminated with disease.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

- 1) Wear protective clothing. Rubber or disposable booties and gloves must be worn. In addition a disposable dust respirator must be worn.
- 2) Do not create dust. Apply a spray solution of soapy water to droppings before and during clean-up to prevent the formation of airborne dust. Continue wetting droppings throughout the clean-up.
- 3) Place droppings in plastic bag and double bag when finished.
- 4) Clean-up is done when there is no visible dust or debris remaining.
- 5) Tools, rubber boots, rubber gloves or other contaminated items that will be reused must be cleaned with a 10% bleach solution. Do this before removing your dust respirator.
- 6) After clean-up put disposable protective clothing into the plastic bag. Remove the dust respirator last.
- 7) Dispose of double bagged droppings and disposable clothing in outdoor trash.

#### **SPECIAL SITUATIONS:**

- 1) In certain situations it is important to take special care not to spread spores and bacteria. This is true if clean-up is inside buildings, near ventilation systems, or in areas that are occupied by children.
- 2) In critical areas (e.g. in a children’s play area) after the area is cleaned and no visible evidence remains, the area can be further disinfected with a 10% bleach solution.