



West Central Florida Safety Alliance

Monthly Meeting Notes

February 15, 2013

Our thanks to Lanier Upshaw for hosting us and providing lunch for everyone.

ATTENDEES:

Luke Vaughn
Ernie Harben
Jim Ulseth
Joan Spencer

Kathy Felsten
Scott MacDonald
Steve Wicorek
Wayne McKinney

Janine Bain
Neville Walters
Ed Maurer
John Will

PRESENTATION:

Tony Walker and Ed Kwater with Ehrlich made a presentation on Pest Control with special emphasis on pest birds. Ed is the Regional Bird Control Specialist at Ehrlich Pest Control.

Ehrlich is the largest pest control service provider in the world. While today's presentation was specific to pest birds, Ehrlich provides services to control all insect, rodent, and other invasive pests.

All native birds are protected by the 1918 Federal Migratory Bird Treaty. Some birds are classified as "game birds" with controls on licensed hunting. A federally issued permit is required to kill all other native birds. Only 3 invasive species are non-protected; Feral Pigeon, European Starling and House Sparrow. Although certain species are not protected there are still laws that dictate the humane euthanizing of them.

- Feral Pigeon: Descended from the Rock Dove of Europe. They were introduced to the US in 1606 as a homing pigeon. They lay 1-2 eggs at a time and reproduce all year round. They nest on flimsy stick nest on a deposit of droppings.
- European Starling: Introduced from Europe in 1890 by an individual who wanted to introduce all the birds mentioned in Shakespeare's plays. They form immense flocks and are highly migratory. European Starlings breed in northern states and winter in the south. They nest in building cavities. They lay 5-7 eggs each time one or two times per year.
- House Sparrow: Introduced into NY city in 1851 to control an outbreak of defoliating caterpillars in the sycamores. They lay 3-5 eggs at a time two or three times per year and are sexual dimorphs (males and females have different appearances).
- Eurasian Collared Dove: Native to India that spread across Europe back in the 50's. They were imported to the Bahamas in the 70's and then they invaded the US mainland. They have similar life habits as the Feral Pigeon but they are more difficult to trap. This is expected to be the next big bird pest in the US.
- Grackles (Boat-Tail and Common), Gulls, Crows, Vultures (Turkey and Black): These are native species and therefore protected and a permit is necessary to trap and control them. Although these are native species they can be pests. Gulls for example will nest on large roof areas (i.e.

warehouses).

Birds are pests because their droppings, nests, and feathers clog gutters, lead to greater cleaning and maintenance costs, they are carriers for numerous diseases, and their nests are a harborage for other microbiological and insect pests.

Some productive techniques to control pest birds include

- EXCLUSION: Keeping the birds off the building with netting that excludes nesting / roosting areas, electrified roosting ledges, spikes and wire systems can be helpful depending on the location and the species to be controlled,
- TRAPPING: Trapping the birds in cages so they can be carried away and euthanized. Mist netting has proven affective for house sparrows.

BUSINESS MEETING: Upcoming activities

- Feb 26 at Lanier Upshaw, Lakeland - 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM, Joan Spencer, Ernie Harben, and Luke Upshaw presenting information on the Hazard Communication updates
- March 22 at Tampa Area Safety Council - 10AM - 1PM, Joan Spencer will present on Creating a Safety Culture
- April 12 (instead of the 19th) Safety Products Inc. will host their annual Safety and Health Fair at their main distribution center on Craftsman Road in Lakeland. Our Alliance will have a table. Please let Jodie Ciccarello know if you can sit at our table during the day.