

# Did You Know...?

## Pigeons

- A pair of adult pigeons can breed up to six times a year and will usually lay two eggs each time.
- If food is readily available, the pigeons will continue to breed at this rate and numbers of birds in the flock will rise dramatically. If however, the food supply is reduced, the flock size will reduce.
- Pigeons control their own numbers very effectively and a reduction in the food supply does not mean the birds will die of starvation, it just means that they will breed less often.
- Feral pigeons are descended from Rock Doves and interbreed with racing pigeons and pigeons from domestic pigeon lofts.
- Colors may vary considerably from blue-gray, through blues, reds, mottled patterns and charcoal to almost pure white.
- Pigeons roost and nest on horizontal surfaces on buildings and other structures that provide a small amount of shelter. Balconies, flat roofs, ledges, loft spaces and empty buildings are often used if the birds have access.
- Nests are constructed of manure but can also contain rubbish such as pieces of plastic, they may even be built on or near the dead bodies of other pigeons.
- Their natural food is grain and green vegetable matter but they will scavenge foodstuff available such as dropped takeaway foods.
- Peak breeding season is between March and September but feral pigeons can breed all year round in the southern states. Normally two eggs are laid with two-four broods each year. The eggs are incubated for 18-19 days and the hatched chicks (squabs) are fledged and leave the nest after 30-37 days.
- 20% of people spell pigeon and pigeons the wrong way, incorrectly adding the letter 'd'. Thus making the word pidgeon and pidgeons.