

## BEHAVIORAL TRAITS OF A PIGEON

### Range and Habitat:

This bird is native to the Old World and introduced and established in most of North America from central Canada southward. Wild Rock Pigeons nest in crevices along rocky seaside cliffs, close to agriculture or open shrub vegetation. Feral birds live in old farm buildings in rural areas. In cities, the skyscrapers tend to take the place of their natural cliff surroundings.

### Breeding and Nesting:

Two white eggs are laid in a crude nest lined with sticks and debris, placed on a window ledge, building, bridge, or cliff. Incubation ranges from 16 to 19 days and is carried out by both sexes.

### Foraging and Feeding:

Rock Doves feed in the early morning and in the mid-afternoon on the open ground. They eat mainly seeds. Depending upon the location, their diet may consist of corn, oats, cherry, knotweed, elm, poison ivy, and barley. In cities, pigeons also eat popcorn, cake, peanuts, bread, and currants.

### Readily Eats:

Bread Products, Cracked Corn, Milo, Nuts, Sunflower Seed, Thistle

### Vocalization:

This bird emits a soft guttural cooing.

### Similar Species:

Similar to this bird is the Band-tailed Pigeon, which has a white bar on its nape and a broad gray tail band. Also similar is the Mourning Dove, which is much smaller and has a long pointed tail.



### Breeding Locations:

Grassland with scattered trees, Rocky places

### Breeding Type: Common

### Breeding Population:

Grassland with scattered trees, Rocky places

### Egg Color: White

### Number of Eggs: 2

### Incubation Days: 16 - 19

### Egg Incubator: Both sexes

### Nest Material:

Unlined platform of sticks, twigs, leaves, grasses.

### Migration: Nonmigratory