

# Sonic Repeller Solves Facility's Pigeon Problem

**A**s the largest manufacturer of gas grills in the world, Char-Broil manufactures grills for Sears, Home Depot, K-Mart, Wal-Mart and other retailers worldwide. But that didn't make the company immune to small nuisances that can cause big property damage and potential employee sickness: pigeons.

Char-Broil's Columbus, GA, headquarters, southwest of Atlanta on the Alabama border, was a favorite pigeon hangout. "They were nesting throughout our 1.2 million sq. ft. of warehouse and factory space for years," says Don Kellett, facilities manager of Char-Broil since 1996. The pigeons' droppings spotted the company's property, causing a negative reaction from employees.

"In the South, pigeons are a year-round nuisance," says Kellett, adding that the nuisance birds breed particularly fast in warm regions. Every two weeks, he says, his staff was "scraping off droppings and pressure-washing the bridges that ran between buildings. We asked our commercial exterminator to deal with the problem and spent a fortune in poison bait."

The pest-control company also tried sticky glue treatments to discourage nesting, but the pigeons prevailed. The pest-control company's limited solutions did not solve Char-Broil's problem. And the pigeons were multiplying. "They even raided the bird feeders we had hung to attract song birds and other desirable species," says Kellett.

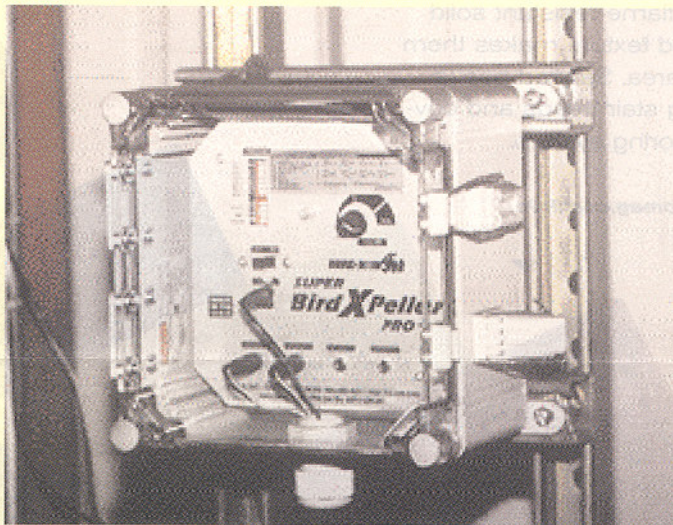
Besides the obvious appearance of bird waste, Kellett was also concerned about worker welfare. "The driving issues for me were health and safety," he says. "I'd heard the horror stories about pigeons

being major carriers of disease."

Kellett had seen advertisements for bird-repelling products, but hadn't believed them. When he read claims that the Super BirdXPeller PRO, a sonic device from Chicago, IL-based Bird-X, Inc., would bother birds enough to make them depart for good, he was no less skeptical. But feeling he had to try something else, he purchased one as an experiment. The results, says Kellett, were positive and immediate. "It has a very convincing sound," he says. "It scared the pigeons away."

The unit is an electronic device that replicates birds' distress calls. It is a programmable, species-specific sonic repeller that operates on standard

110-volt electricity or battery. Its directional speakers broadcast precise reproductions of birds' distress cries, recorded by a major U.S. university. The cries create a perceived "danger zone" that frightens infesting birds away, in their own language. Programmable bird sounds include a choice of any or all of eight varieties, depending on the type of infestation. Choices include predator sounds to help scare all the birds. With variable



volume and time-sequence controls, the XPeller unit fools nuisance birds into fleeing the area permanently.

Kellett says he bought three additional Super BirdXPellers the following month, covering more than one million square feet of Char-Broil's facilities. Installation through the metal walls of their buildings was easy, says Kellett, who adds that he's no longer a skeptic about his ability to keep birds away from his property for good. □

**Bird-X, Inc.**, 300 N. Elizabeth St., Chicago, IL 60607; 312-226-2473.

Use **IMPO No. 65** or [www.impomag.com/info](http://www.impomag.com/info)