

# Healing The Hospital On The Outside

Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital, located in Sweetwater, Texas, is blessed with a beautiful central courtyard. The brick hospital surrounds a 70' x 70' open courtyard containing grass, flowers, trees and a picturesque winding sidewalk.

The hospital's idyllic courtyard was so beloved that a retiring employee donated two bird feeders to grace its space. Not surprisingly, birds came—but not the hoped-for pretty songbirds. Instead, grackles by the hundreds came from the surrounding farmland to get the free food and to mess up the courtyard.

## Sore Spot Requires Emergency Treatment

Howard Bryant, plant operations manager at the hospital for 20 years, was aghast. He had never seen anything like it, he says, and the smell was intolerable. Even though a groundskeeper was assigned to clean up the grackle droppings early each morning, the odor remained intractable, day after day. And, says Bryant, the bird droppings were a health and safety hazard.

"Patients often come out in slippers," Bryant explains. Soft soles tracking in the nasty bird waste just wouldn't do in a hospital environment. Bird droppings

are known to harbor bacteria that can cause debilitating diseases. In addition, bird feathers threatened to clog the hospital's air conditioning system.

So Bryant and his colleagues did the obvious thing. "We removed the bird feeders," he says. But that did not stop the grackles from convening in the courtyard.

## Fast-Acting Bird-X Remedy

Bryant phoned the county's farm information agency for advice. They referred him to the 800 number of a company called Bird-X, Inc. in Chicago, which led him to purchase the company's Super BirdXPeller PRO. This electronic device repels birds by mimicking their distress calls. The programmable, species-specific sonic unit operates on standard 110-volt electricity or via battery. Its directional speakers broadcast precise reproductions of birds' distress cries as recorded by a major U.S. university and create a perceived "danger zone" that frightens infesting birds away—in their own language. The programmable bird sounds include a choice of any or all of eight varieties, depending on the type of infestation. The 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.

"When we first got the XPeller, we wondered if it would work," Bryant admits. "The salesperson told us, 'if you're not satisfied, send it back.'" Bryant and his staff have no intention of sending it back. The unit worked right away and as advertised.

"Balloons, rubber snakes and plastic owls don't work on grackles," says Bryant. "You need something that makes noise. This works."

The Super BirdXPeller PRO was easy to install, he says. "We mounted two speakers on the roof, about 15' up and 40' apart with the speakers aimed toward the courtyard." When the grackles heard the sound, they fled. "It got rid of all the birds, all at once," Bryant affirms.

Some weeks later, they turned the unit off, Bryant says. As if on cue, the birds returned in force. They'll not be turning off the XPeller again any time soon.

## Call In The Experts

As for the sound the device emits, Bryant says "it is not bothersome to patients inside the hospital. The windows are closed and it sounds like a crow outside."

Bryant is pleased with the results of Super BirdXPeller PRO. It helped bring the courtyard back to its original appearance and natural outdoor fragrance, and it reduced the hospital's annual clean-up costs. "Another good thing is the availability of parts," he adds. "If the speakers eventually wear out, we can simply order new ones from Bird-X. We don't need to buy a whole new machine." That is important in controlling long-term maintenance expenses, he notes.

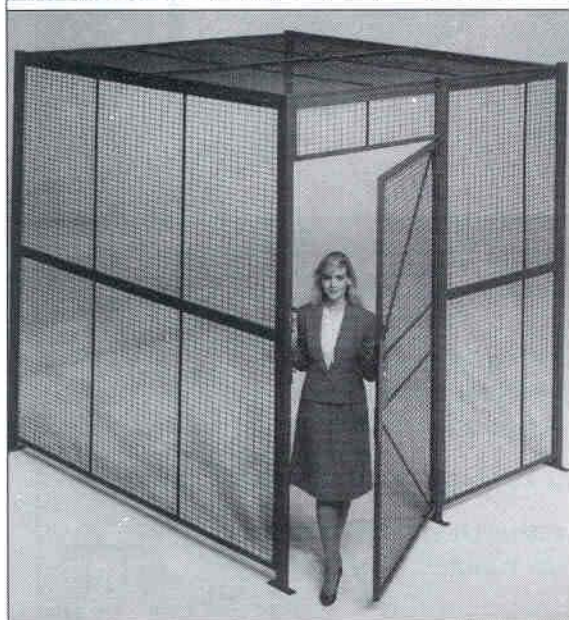
To learn more about the Super BirdXPeller PRO or other Bird-X products call: 800-662-5021 or visit them on the web at: [www.bird-x.com](http://www.bird-x.com).



**BirdXPeller PRO**

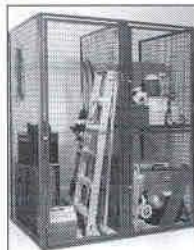
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