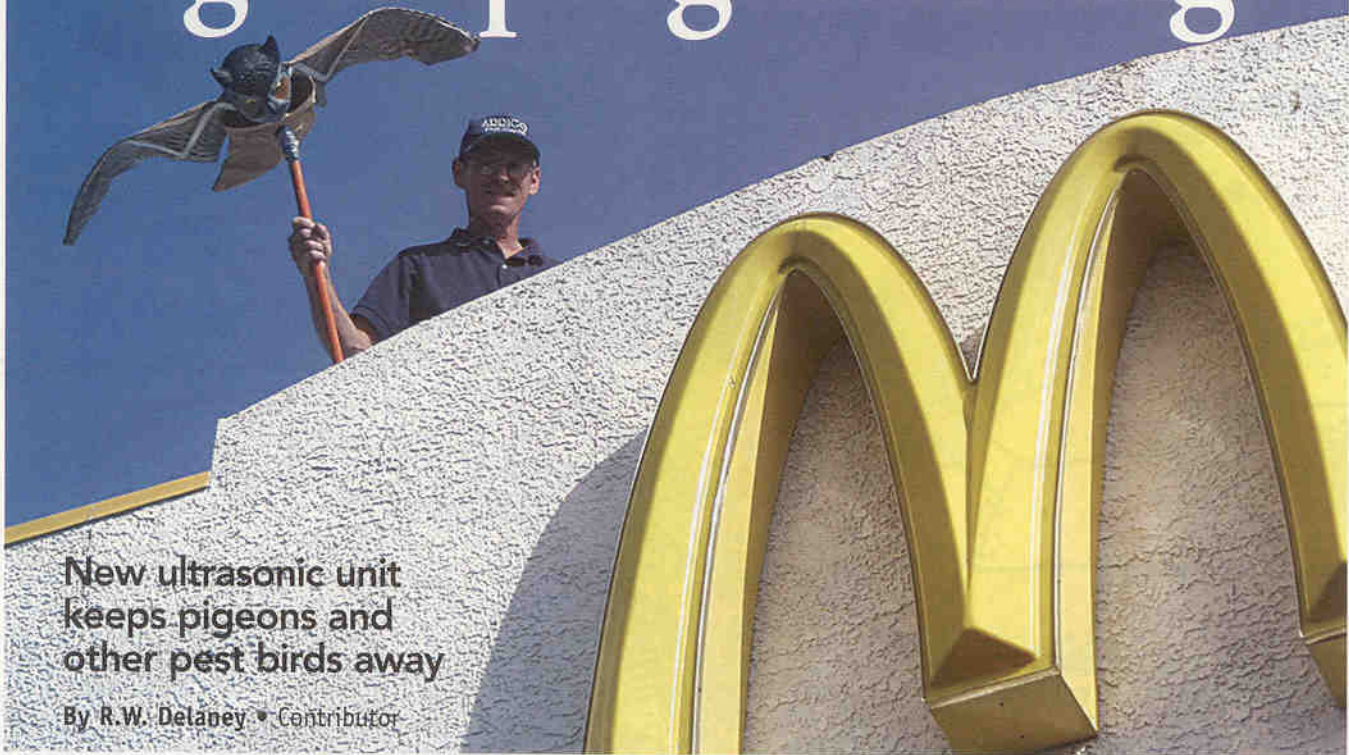


## Pigeon programming



New ultrasonic unit keeps pigeons and other pest birds away

By R.W. Delaney • Contributor

**S**ay what you want, but two things stand out about pigeons: They are persistent, and the volume of their droppings is legendary.

John Arrigo, owner of Arrigo Pest Control in Las Vegas, knows these facts well. Over the years, he has used an array of products with varying degrees of success.

### CLOSE UP

#### Arrigo Pest Control, Las Vegas

- Founded in 1985
- Owner John Arrigo has been in the industry 30 years

#### PROBLEM

Gaining control over pigeons and other pest birds

#### SOLUTION

Bird-X's BroadBand PRO

As Arrigo tells it, one of his customers was losing control of his gas station business to the pigeons. Perched atop the station, they were in a position to leave droppings relentlessly. The scene was a disgrace for the gas station owner, and he feared customers would complain. The territorial pigeons were making their presence felt far too tangibly.

That's when Arrigo turned to the latest technology to deter birds: BroadBand PRO, a broadband ultrasonic, programmable unit from Chicago-based Bird-X.

"I'd never used one, and I didn't know what to expect," he recalls. "Bird-X walked me through the process of installing and programming the unit."

As a veteran in the business, Arrigo was naturally a bit skeptical, yet willing to experiment with the latest wizardry to outwit the birds for good.

### MULTIFUNCTIONAL SOLUTION

While sonic repellers have been marketed for years, this is the first machine to multitask. It features not only distress cries that signal danger to pigeons, starlings, gulls and other common pest birds, but also predator cries like falcons and hawks. The mixture of sounds, frequencies and volumes add up to all-encompassing harassment. It's noninjurious to birds and the environment but gets the job done quickly and efficiently.

After Arrigo installed the BroadBand PRO unit and turned it on, the results were instantaneous, he says, adding, "It was awesome. The pigeons left immediately — and they have not come back."

Arrigo says he first set the unit on high volume as recommended by the manufacturer. After a few days, he

*continued on page 62*

gradually reduced the sound and then programmed the unit to run silently in an ultrasonic range that only birds hear.

The gas station manager is, according to Arrigo, happy with the results. Ditto for the gas station customers — including Arrigo, who happens to buy his gas there. The client owns another 100 gas stations and at press time was negotiating for Arrigo to supply bird control whenever and wherever the pigeons begin to congregate. Arrigo plans to integrate the BroadBand PRO units into his program.

It's a smart preventive move instead of waiting until the problem gets out of control, Arrigo says.

## McPIGEONS

Sometimes, Arrigo says, it's too late for

prevention, as was the case recently with two McDonald's restaurants in Las Vegas. Examining the scenes for his client, Arrigo found pigeons had taken up residence behind three

**Commercial signs provide safety and protection to pigeons, so the birds can hang out and remain hidden from view.**

McDonald's signs and on two levels of roofing.

"There were a dozen permanent pigeon residents, complete with nests, eggs and hatchlings," he says. "Dozens

more were flying in from the pigeon-infested shopping center across the street."

According to Arrigo, the signs provided safety and protection, so the birds could hang out and remain hidden from view.

"The pigeons were also attracted to McDonald's by the scent of food and by the stray French fries," Arrigo adds.

Pigeon droppings were accumulating in all the wrong places. Concerned about the health components of the problem, the owner of the two McDonald's facilities asked Arrigo what he could do. He removed the nests, cleaned up the nesting sites and placed metal spikes to prevent re-nesting. Then he installed a BroadBand PRO unit on each McDonald's outlet.

"In each facility, I put the unit on the lower roof along with two speakers.

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Above: John Arrigo adjusts an installed BroadBand PRO unit on the outside of an account.



Left: The units feature an adjustable volume control.

Then I put the other two speakers on the upper roof," he explains. That gave complete coverage and the desired prevention.

Now BroadBand PRO is Arrigo's first choice if his customer's budget permits the expense. Otherwise, he relies on manual methods of discouraging the birds, such as applying sticky gels or using visual scare tactics (such as what's pictured on page 60).

### NO MORE BIRDHOUSE

Arrigo also recommended BroadBand PRO for specific use in a residential setting.

"One customer owns a multimillion-dollar home with a Spanish tile roof and private courtyard," he explains.

"When pigeons took up residence in the courtyard, this was unacceptable to the executive and his family. After discussion, we decided to install two units to cover the whole property."

Arrigo says that one unit might have been sufficient, but he didn't want to take a chance in this upscale gated community. Arrigo and the homeowner also explained their approach to neighboring homeowners to ensure cooperation.

The results were impressive, Arrigo reports. "From the first blast, the birds were gone — pigeons and an annual infestation of blackbirds."

Gradually, Arrigo reduced the volume, and then he programmed the units to run silently. "The birds left the neighbors' property, too," he adds. **PC**

Delaney is a Chicago-based writer. Contact her at [pccontributor@questex.com](mailto:pccontributor@questex.com). For more information about BroadBand PRO, call 800-662-5021 or visit [www.bird-x.com/PCM](http://www.bird-x.com/PCM).

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