



male
White-breasted Nuthatch
by Larry McQueen

AVIARY CONTROL

Frequent Asked Questions (FAQs)

Do birds and bats transmit diseases to humans?

Yes, birds and bats transmit diseases to humans. Psittacosis is an infectious disease in humans that has mild, non-specific flu-like symptoms. This disease and others diseases can be transmitted from birds to humans.

What diseases do birds and bats transmit to humans?

The following diseases can be transmitted from birds and bats to humans:

- Cryptococcosis
- Histoplasmosis
- West Nile Virus
- Psittacosis
- And others

How do birds pass on the disease to humans?

Humans can become infected by breathing in the organism when the urine, respiratory secretion, or dried feces of infected birds is aerosolized (i.e., dispersed in the air as very fine droplets or dust particles). Other sources of exposure include mouth-to-beak contact, a bite from an infected bird, and handling the feathers and tissues of infected birds.

Can humans transmit the infection/disease to other humans?

Person-to-person transmission of the disease is rare.

How do you keep birds and bats from getting into the schools?

The best way to keep birds and bats out of the buildings is to eliminate the openings and accesses.

Can birds be in classrooms for instructional purposes?

Yes, however, care must be taken especially, when cleaning up this waste.

Do you use falcons (birds of prey) for pigeon control work?

No, this is neither a long-term nor a cost-effective solution to any serious pigeon problem, because pigeons will take flight when a bird of prey is nearby and they will return to “roost” as soon as the danger has passed.

What should I do if I have a bird or bat problem at my school?

If you suspect a bird or bat problem at your school, contact the Department of Environmental Health & Safety at (313) 578-7150.