

Birds of the Present vs. Buildings of the Past

A historical lighthouse battles pest seagulls, and wins.

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The DeTour Reef Lighthouse has been a fixture at the head of Lake Huron in Michigan's Upper Peninsula since 1931. Having been built in 1847 and later moved to its current location, the actual structure is over 150 years old and is a testament to the region's shipping and social history. It is also on a list of America's Most Endangered Historic Places.

When managing a large structure on the water such as this, a common challenge is the battle against seagulls. For the lighthouse, not only were bird droppings defacing property, but these pest birds were annoying the weekend keepers and tourists. In the summer of 2010, property managers decided to invest in a bird control solution from Bird-X.

The BirdXPeller PRO is an electronic bird repellent device that emits naturally recorded bird distress signals and predator calls to frighten, confuse, and disorient birds within a 1-acre range (up to 4 acres with the 4-speaker system). Once installed at the DeTour Reef Lighthouse, seagulls quickly learned to stay away. One weekend keeper said, "Seagulls avoid landing here! The recording of desperate gulls is incredibly effective." Another shared, "In so many ways it has decreased the work and increased the quality of the lighthouse stay!"

The BirdXPeller PRO is a perfect solution for historic buildings like the lighthouse for a few reasons: it is a small, weatherproof device that can be installed without changing the appearance or damaging the structure, and it can be used even when property managers are away during off-seasons. The DeTour Reef Lighthouse was the ultimate victor of this battle. As one worker observed, "Those who have never been here before will never know the miracle of it [BirdXPeller PRO]. Those who have been here before REJOICE and never forget our fight against the seagulls. The battle is won!"