

Super BirdXPeller PRO: Hospital Grounds

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Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital, deep in the heart of 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. Patients on the mend like to stroll there; and hospital staff members, who are not allowed to smoke inside the hospital, gather outside on break.

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 big-time.

Sore Spot Requires Emergency Treatment

Howard Bryant, Plant Operations Manager at Rolling Plains Memorial 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 didn't stop the grackles from convening in the courtyard. They settled in like permanent residents.

Fast-Acting Bird-X Remedy

Bryant phoned the county's farm information agency for advice. They referred him to the 1-800 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 BirdXPeller unit fools nuisance birds into fleeing the area.

"When we first got the BirdXPeller, 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 it worked 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 feet up, and 40 feet 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 that 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's important in controlling long-term maintenance expenses, he notes. When the operations manager of a state prison about 30 miles west of Sweetwater recently asked Bryant what to do about nuisance birds, he gave them the magic number for Bird-X: 1-800-662-5021.