

Bird-X'd out by QuadBlaster QB-4

Birds chirp and fly among the trees when spring arrives, but when they take warehouses, big trouble can hatch for the warehousing managers.

Birds can cause a nest of problems, but the chief concern lies in the birds' droppings, which can pose health, financial and sanitation problems.

Paul Delp, president of Lansdale Warehouse Co., a 350,000-sq-ft. facility in Lansdale, PA, has had bird problems. He says Canada geese nested on his warehouse roof and, eventually, acid in their droppings ate through the roofing and caused a leak.

"We didn't realize until it was too late," he says.

Ray Salvesen, warehouse supervisor at Comidsco in Schaumburg, IL, has seen situations in his 250,000-sq-ft. public warehouse. Chief among them were flying sparrows, starlings and robins, which presented danger to customers touring the computer-storage facility when the birds swooped through.

Bird calls – not!

Salvesen called out the heavy artillery: the QuadBlaster QB-4, an ultrasonic bird-repellant device from Bird-X, Inc., of Chicago. The QB-4 emits a sound that birds find annoying, but that humans can't hear.

"After three to four weeks, we noticed the birds wouldn't even bother coming in at all anymore," he says.

The QB-4 consists of four Piezo speakers that sit at right angles to one another so they can throw sound into every part of the room they're in. The frequency of the sound can be regulated from 20 to 30 kilohertz at different speeds of in what's called a joining mode, in which sound is emitted in overlapping sequences in 12-second bursts. Alternating the sound keeps birds from getting acclimated to the noise.

The QB-4 can be plugged into any 110-volt alternating-current (AC) outlet and uses little power, Bird-X confirmed. A light flashes when the QB-4 is in the "warble" mode and stays on in steady mode so that people can tell which sound pattern is being used. The one-foot square, four-inch high, nine-pound device can project sound up to 6,000 feet – more than a mile.

But for all its power, the QB-4 is humane; and that means there's no harm at all to the birds.

Other means

Delp says that exterminators are an option, but usually must come back. The QB-4, on the other hand, is only a one-time investment. It doesn't need to make a return visit like an exterminator would.

Salvesen says he never tried exterminators because he wanted a method that would work from inside the building. That's what he found in the QB-4. He's solved his bird problems, he says, and didn't mind ruffling a few feathers in the process.