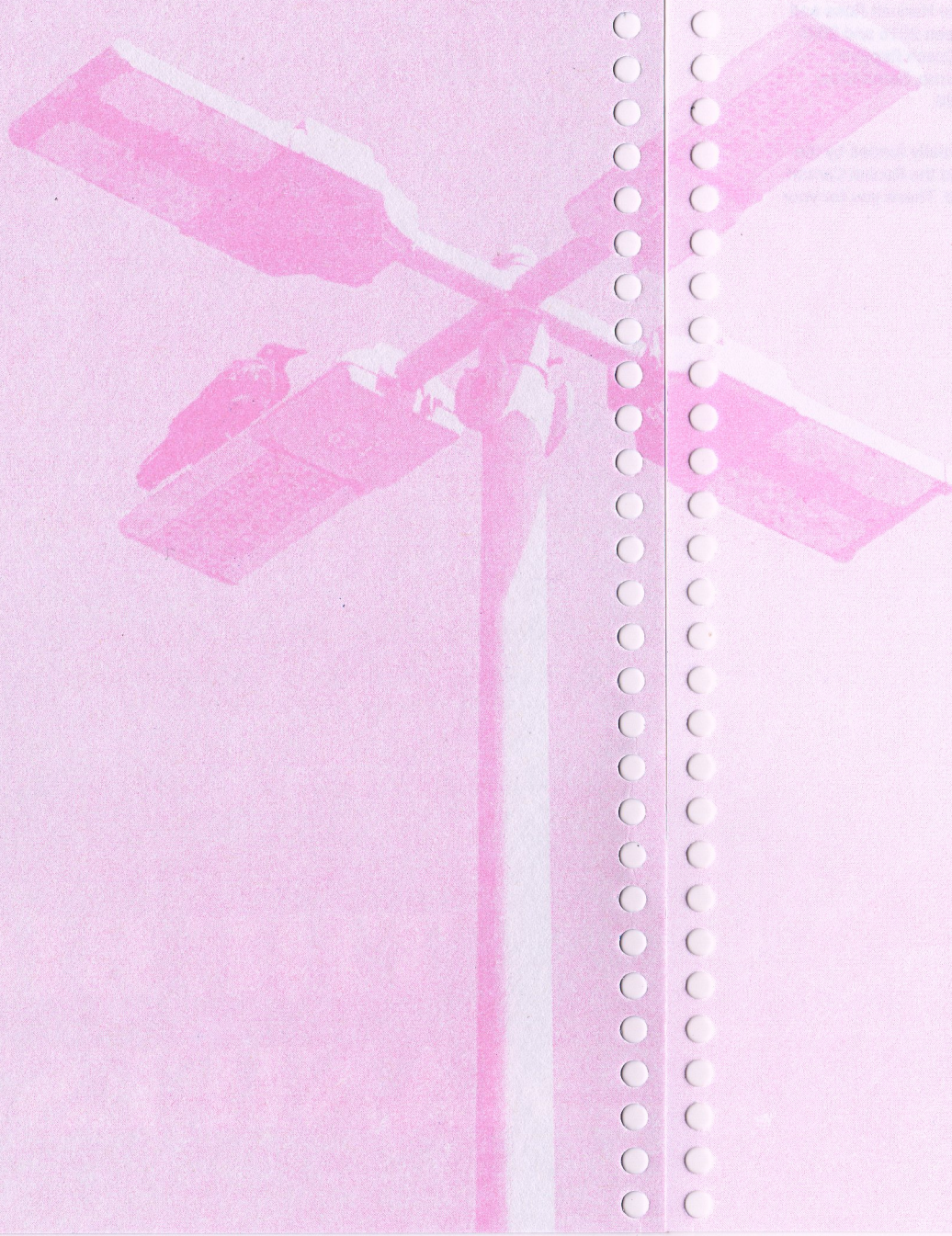


**THE BIRD
MANIFESTO**





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75

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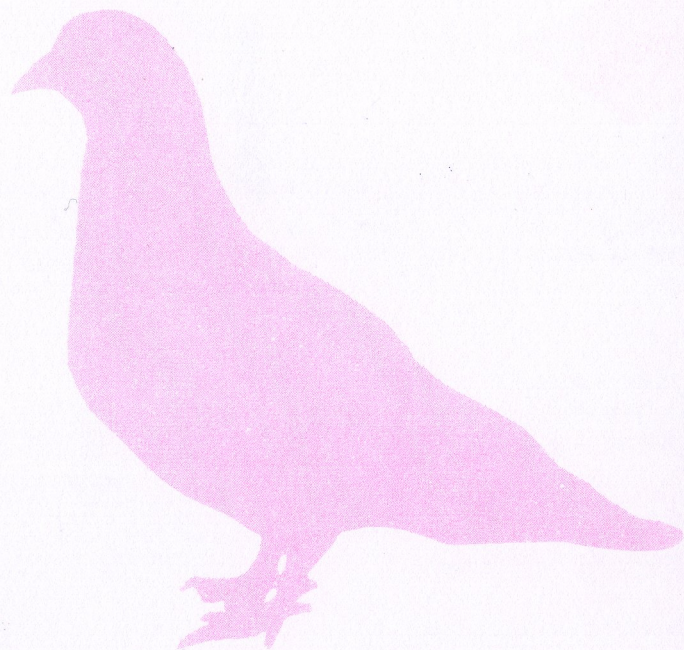
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Photos and illustrations were either created or sourced by Hannah Ross and Joshua Zupan between 2016 and 2020 from France: Paris, Czech Republic: Prague, CA: Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Berkeley, Interstate 80.

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CA: Sacramento
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ABSTRACT

For the entirety of human existence we have watched as our stone and concrete-abled friends built landscapes, and transformed grounds, skylines, seas, and bus stops.

There is beautiful architecture, there is modernist architecture, there are strip malls from the early 2000s everyone wishes were in a different color.

We live, we breathe, we navigate our way out of the CVS parking lot. Variations in shelter became multi-theater megaplexes, outdoor breweries, condos, and parks which evolved to hold the same political and emotional staying power as my Aunt Amy.

Shelter evolved into sidewalks, into Citronella-scented bug repellent candles™, into anti-vaping bus stop ad campaigns, into pro-vaping billboards, into railroad revamp highlines and \$35 entry to national parks.

The city operates as an organism. It pumps hemoglobin filled cars to exchange gases in parks or cafés, inhales goods through its ports and exhales unique in-

dustry. But is the city kind? Has a skyscraper ever leaned down to give you a hug on a hard day or offered to watch your laptop computer while you use the bathroom?

The city and we: the most codependent relationship since bread and bread knives.

In this version of a universe we make cities that require us to take more than we make (i.e. The Second Law of Thermodynamics).

For example, habitats that once housed birds are cleared to make a new city. The buildings block out moonlight, so we make street lamps to light the path to the ice cream shop on a Saturday night. These lamps offer birds an alternative to their previous leafy perches. The birds sit and shit on our heads. Therefore we put spikes on our lamp posts.

After we put spikes on the posts to ward off the birds, we then pay to enter "lamp post-free nature" with our special sight tools to go look at and name



birds. This is considered a fun and respectable pass time.

Urban planning, family planning, city planning, market planning, business planning, career planning, a man with the plan named stan. This book serves as a perch manifesto: a reminder to all beings that adaptation and guano french fries are the future. Our future.

LET THE BIRDS PERCH





QUESTIONS FOR BIRDS

Consider the Tweet:

We sat down with a bird representative from the ACLU (Aviary Civil Liberties Union) to discuss international threats to perching and the pandemic of bird-unfriendly architecture. The following is an excerpt from a four hour discussion held in the redwood canopies of the Central California coast. Further coverage of the event and a complete recording of the discussion can be found at *The Ornithological Institute: Questions for Birds That Matter* website.



Zupan & Ross:

Thank you so much for joining us here today Dr. Bird.

Dr. Bird: Oh it was my pleasure. It is not often people choose to meet me on my turf, so to speak.

R: Let's dive right in. Bird-unfriendly architecture. What is it and why does it exist?

Dr. B: Bird-unfriendly architecture is any design that thwarts bird nature, be it perching, nesting, flying, or foraging. Examples include: pavement, chemicals, spikes, reflective

materials, fake birds, scare-crows (more like weird crows if you ask me), anything called "bird-b-gone", and fake or non-existent ledges. As if cities were not enough, this is a whole new class of design invented purely for the inconvenience of the urban bird populace.

Z: What does it mean for birds to perch on statues, buildings, and other monuments to human existence, or as some might posture, human "dominance"?

Dr. B: We as Birds are the closest living ancestors to dinosaurs. Birds are ancient creatures. Birds sit and also fly. When we sit we call this perching. Perching is an ancient act. Birds perched before we had the language capability to name the concept. Before the question was invented, before human thought, there was both the chicken and the egg.

R: Perching gives birds access to a view of the world we can only dramatize, dream about, construct. For example, "birds eye view" is a common term used to imagine how something, usually a city or a building, might look from above, as a bird would see it. We often augment this view with technology or through art. Birds look for prey, we add color. Can birds



see color?

Dr. B: More than you'd believe. Not only can we see in the full color spectrum, but we can also see in Ultraviolet. Try to top that homosapiens.

Z: Interesting. Most birds can fly. Elaborate on that.

Dr. B: Humans cannot fly or see in the same way as birds without technolog. Birds have the two main superpowers often gifted to mythical humans: sight and flight. Humans are obsessed with bird culture, consider the "Tweet". I think that this mimicry is the root of anti-bird discourse. Birds have been meme-ified and iconized since the dawn of human supremacy (from the hieroglyphs to surveillance conspiracy theories). Though many of us exist at the top of the food-chain, to humans, we are merely the butt of the joke.

R: What do birds' resistance to anti-bird architecture tell us about human nature, design, and the need to control?

Z: If I may interject, I think it could be useful to define the terms "bird" and "human". Dr. Bird, your thoughts?



"MERRIAM WEBSTER DEFINES BIRDS AS

Dr. B: Merriam Webster defines birds as lmao.

R: Back to my question.

Dr. B: Yes. The worst thing a bird can do to a human is poop on them, this is a humans greatest fear. Unless you account for the fear-mongering of Cassowaries, but their malice is scarce and their actions have earned them a spot on the ACLU's black list. Anyway, in the grand scheme of things this is only a hiccup of a problem but for a person it's world shattering. So urban design has bird-thwarting ingrained into it.



When constructing a new office building, new affordable housing uni- oh scratch that, new condos, government offices, restaurants and cafés, or storefronts, you make a plan. An environmental impact report is written, city zoning ordinances are obeyed, building contractors are brought in with materials and expertise, and designers make hang the wall art. The thing that most people and birds don't realize is that in every one of these steps, the potential for

Z: Yes, thank you.

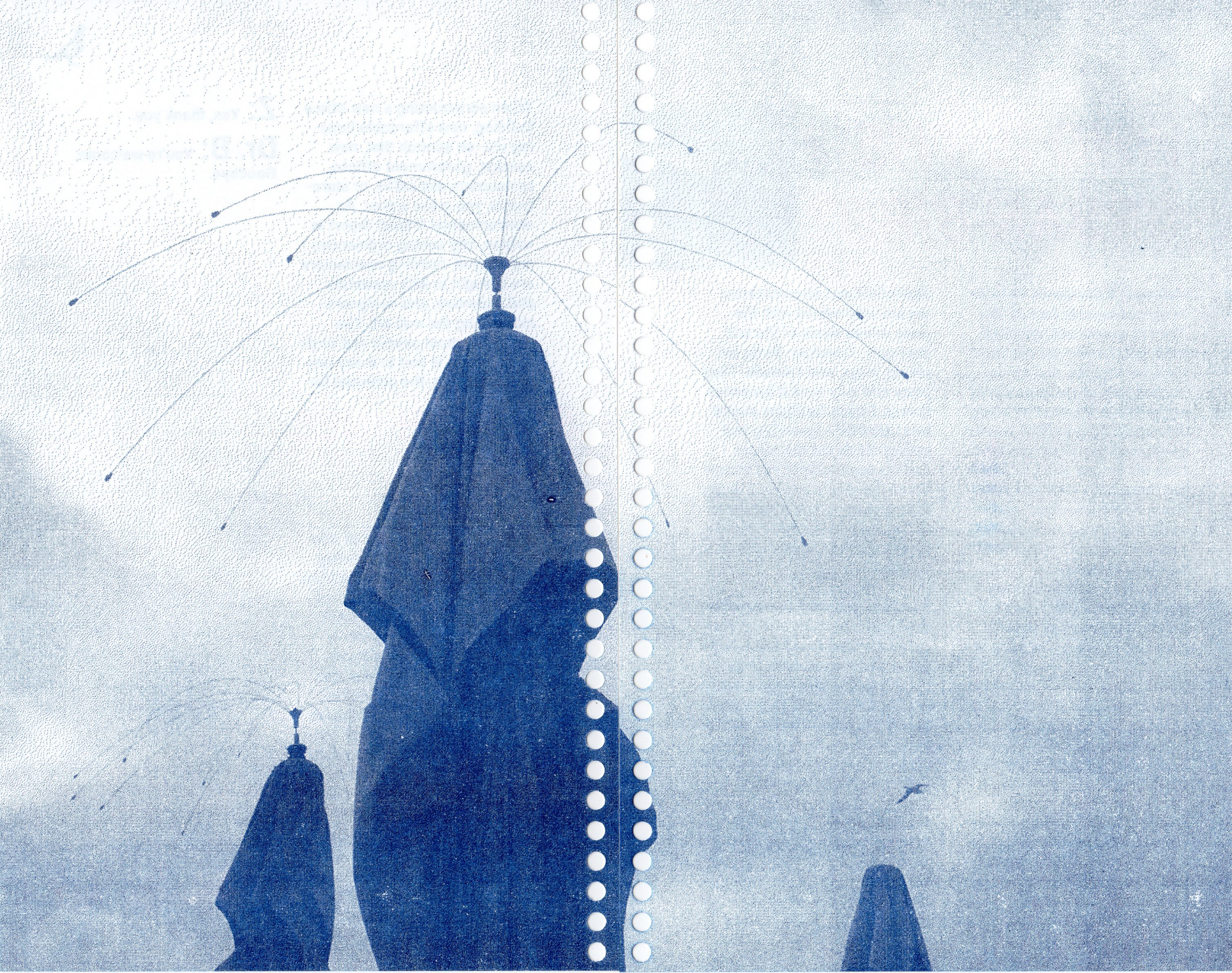
Dr. B: You're welcome. Goodbye.

STER DEFINES LMAO."

bird habitation is a point of consideration. Cities plan building sites at the proper distance from nesting trees, knowing that we won't forage so far away from our homes. Wood is specially treated with chemicals so as not to attract termites that we would eat. Bird spikes are the final cherry on top. As the most adaptable species, humans have been forced to resort to confetti covered umbrellas and medieval renditions of billboards to deter our persistent resistant existence.

R: Dr. Bird, thank you for taking the time to enlighten us today.







WHO IS THE URBAN BIRD?

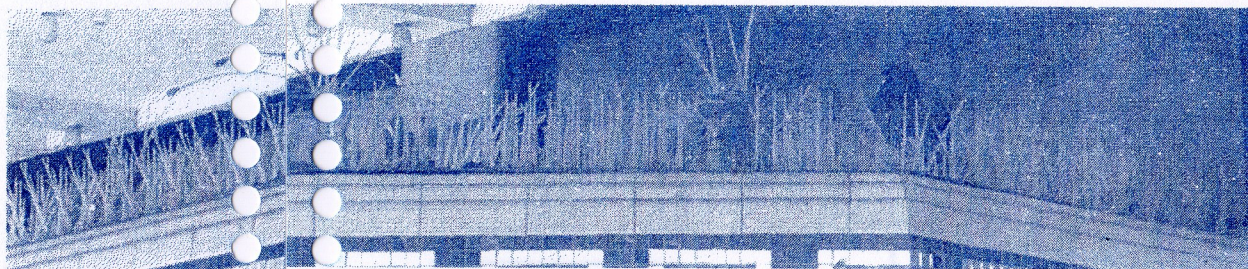
Humans' dependence on birds is an inescapable fact of life. They're genetically modified, bred, and farmed for our dinners, lunchables, and oh-so-challenging-to-make poached eggs—the scariest of all being America's big bountiful Thanksgiving holiday. What other time of the year can you knock out three birds with one stone but during Turducken™ season? Thin-sliced oven-roasted deli-style turkey lunch meat, feather earrings, crow-core homeware, or Duck Dynasty™ merchandise...whatever your schtick is, we are all unified consumers in the bird economy.

Twentieth century economic and industry growth gave us factory farming, and as food manufacturing grew and grew nobody could remember who that Upton Sin-something guy even was. At the same time, far away from our farms, guano mining operations were booming. The high nitrogen and phosphorus levels (essential nutrients for plants) in bat and seabird guano made their shit *the* shit. Through

capitalism and circumstance we are intertwined with the poop driven circle of life and economy. Consider: Birds eat plants, bugs, and animals. They poop and over time it becomes guano. Guano fertilizes plants and helps them grow big and strong. Birds eat the plants, and we eat the birds and sometimes the plants too (as a lovely little garnish). Unfortunately or fortunately for us, were equal parts terrified and dependent on bird shit.

Terrified, you ask? So scary is the bird bomb from above. Forget lions, tigers, and bears, we'd rather show up at work after being mauled by a large mammal than with a gift from today's geese gaggle in our hair. Taboo even, to be made victim of the sky-descending white splat, the stain on a favorite sweater, an emblem of one's inferiority to the natural world. Great fears sparked by an even greater problem.

The issue of too many birds and non-native birds is not a bird



issue at all. These are human issues at their core. We've constructed a reality that, through advancement, creates new problems like nobody's business. Some of those problems happen to involve invasive bird species or way too many pigeons in the neighborhood park. But the birds are just adapting. In this section, we break down some examples borrowed from real scholars about bird adaptation in urban environments: from spikes to poison, perches to prey.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK!



Common Ancestor
(dinosaurs)

Evolved miraculous ability to
become oil after death

Rudimentary feathers

Vaned feathers

Flight feather,
gliding

Chickens never
evolve past this
point in the
evolutionary tree

Reduced tail, toothless
beak, powered flight

Cohabitation with humans

Learned to perch on
anti-bird spikes

Developed french fry
thievery skills

Exploits insects trapped by
urban light pollution

Organized collective
terror

Modern Birds
Avian moderna

Party Bird
Avian sigma-phi-delta

A. Hitchcock Bird
Avian scaresus

CVS Bird™
Avian corporatious

PHYLOGENY OF THE URBAN BIRD

The urban bird is an evolutionary phenomenon like no
other...



A POEM ABOUT BIRD LUNCH

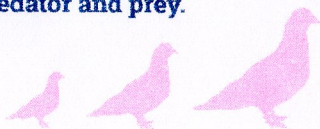
Birds adapt for - aging

by polarized light, the birds strategize the fragmented mosaics
of cityscapes
where insects become trapped.
typically perched on the building's ledges
hover-gleaning caddisflies from window surfaces:
They are the case for animal innovation.

Flexibly, they exploit food sources.
They take lunch in the rubbish dump areas of Madrid and
Rome,
And in Delhi, where café-scavenged meat round out a diet of
rats and rock pigeons
This and the cracking of nuts with car wheels by Japanese
crows,
And in urban parks where they gather to catch food children
toss into the air

And the blue and great tits of the roaring 20s who—
seeing the fresh milk custom delivered to doorsteps
in glass bottles fitted with a flexible metal lid,
and remaining there sometime before being taken indoors—
approached, inspected, and exploited
this source of fat;
consuming the thickened cream accumulated under the top.

The birds adapt to lunch on atypical pollution.
Cities become the predator and prey.



NOTE: The text of these poems was sourced from excerpts of: "Becoming Citizens: Avian Adaptations to Urban Life," "City Lifestyles: Behavior at Ecology of Urban Raptors," and "Glass Buildings as Bird Feeders: Urban Bird Exploits Insects Trapped by Polarized Light Pollution"



A POEM ABOUT BIRD BEDS

They nested on skyscraper ledges,
Atop power plant cooling towers, bridges,
And in flower pots on windowsills in Israel.

They planned for families on a crane,
From the mast of a sailboat,
and inside an automobile raised 30m
in the air
at a car dealership in Fresno

They gathered for occasions on
billboards,
high-voltage transmission towers,
and cavities in historic buildings in
Vienna.

On railway signal gantry,
On civil defense sirens,
on rooftops,
inside chimneys,
and on a gas grill, they fell in love.
They laid eggs.

On weekends,
they defend their homes vigorously
from city residents
(sometimes hitting them)
And avoid roadsides near large cities
when traffic volume is heavy.



"The Rid-A-Bird Perch is a specialized tool that can be both effective and efficient. The source but will perch itself at a convenient peripheral perch, essentially a hollow mesh. The point to "snare" the situation. It may alight on the permeable wick that contacts the structure before passing into a structural perching foot, permits transfer of chemicals take advantage of this solution to the foot surface. The chemical

is adsorbed through the bird's behavior. Before EPA birds might be eliminated by through the body, and some death some treating these transitory perches with a contact poison hours later, the interval necessary to enclose the (like endrin). Now it is necessary to enclose the contact dose. The bird, perch containing the chemical, and an artificial perch containing the site or some distance from the roost toxicant was evolved to provide temporary perches." made at a feeding or loafing area."

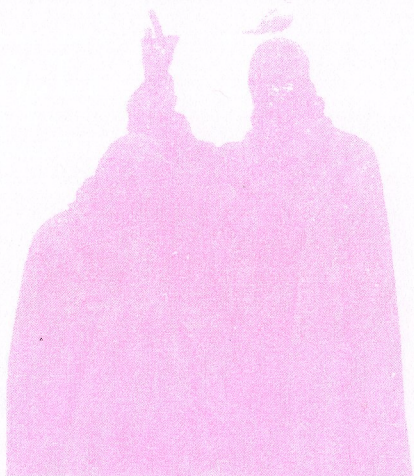




THE BIRD MANIFESTO:



WE PROPOSE A BIRD FRIENDLY WORLD.



**BIRDS PERSEVERE! WE PERSEVERE!
TOGETHER!**

**WHO WILL REMAIN? BIRDS
BIRDS THE ALL-KNOWER, ALL-SEER,
EVER-PRESENT CREATURE OF
LAND AND SKY.**

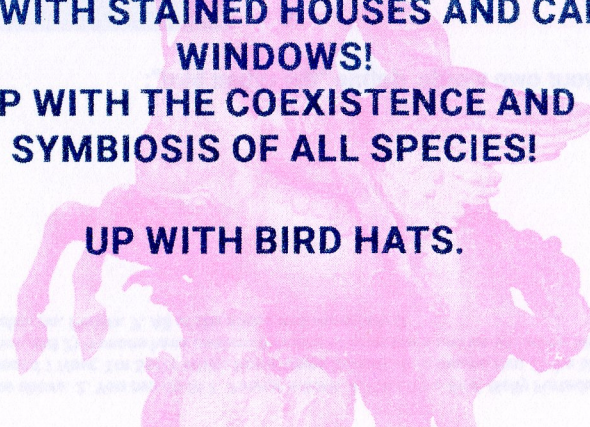
**BIRDS THE RODENTS, THE REVERED, THE
BANE OF CASUAL OUTDOOR EATERIES.
BIRDS SWOOP IN FOR A SINGLE FRENCH
FRY FROM OUR PLATES FOREVER.
BIRDS THE ORIGINAL ONE-UPPER, THAT
WHICH WE FURIOUSLY ATTEMPT TO EM-
ULATE, THEY ORCHESTRATE OUR LIVES,
AND THEY DE-ORCHESTRATE OUR CITIES.
BIRDS WERE DINOSAURS; WERE FIRST.
BIRDS WILL REMAIN!
BIRDS WHEN THE EARTH RETURNS TO
ITSELF.**



**DOWN WITH BIRD UNFRIENDLY
ARCHITECTURE.
DOWN WITH URBAN PLANNING.
DOWN WITH DELUDED IDEALS OF
HOMOSAPIEN SUPREMACY.
DOWN WITH SPIKES ON STREET LAMPS,
SPIKES ON BUILDINGS, SPIKES ON
KIOSKS, SPIKES ON UMBRELLAS, ON
BOATS, ON STATUES, ON ROOFS, ON
PORCHES, ON AWNINGS, ON LAWNS.
DOWN WITH THE PARALLEL POLICING OF
HUMAN AND BIRD PERCHING, SQUAT-
TING IS ANCIENT, SQUATTING IS OUR
RIGHT!
DOWN WITH SPIKES.**

**UP WITH BIRDS ON ROCKS!
UP WITH THE PERCH:
UP WITH THE POO,
UP WITH STAINED HOUSES AND CAR
WINDOWS!
UP WITH THE COEXISTENCE AND
SYMBIOSIS OF ALL SPECIES!**

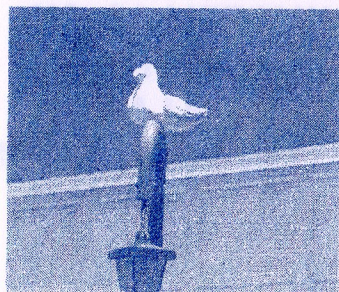
UP WITH BIRD HATS.





DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

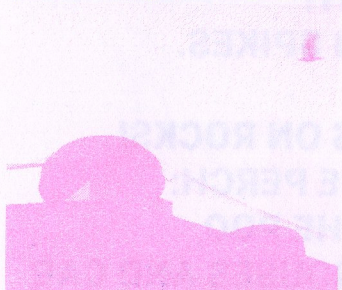
1 Which of the following represent bird-unfriendly architecture?



A



B



C



D

2. In your own words, define "the urban bird".

KEY: 1. All of the above. 2. You can do it! 3. Peanut m&m's. 4. I'm Like a Bird, Nelly Furtado OR Singing Birds Sound 1 Hour, Tm Soft's White Noise Sleep Sounds. 5. It means that 1) the bird is about to eat lunch and 2) humans have useless illusions of granduere and we will all be bird poo in the end. 6. Yellow-no. Purple. 7. All of the above and especially D.



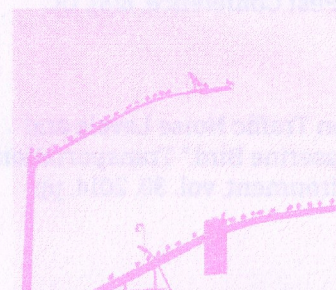
3. Do urban birds prefer peanuts or m&m's more?

4. If birds could talk, what song would they pick for karaoke?

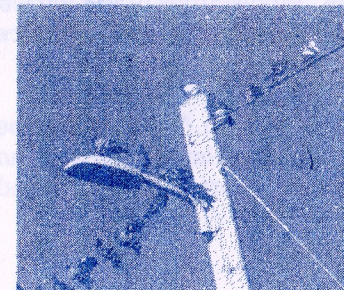
5. What does it mean for a bird to perch (and poop) on a statue of an iconic person or figure?

6. What color are birds?

7 Which of these images show birds in their natural habitat?



A



B



C



D



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LET THE BIRDS PERCH





