

# Rock Pigeon

*Columba livia*

## Description

The Rock Pigeon is the common pigeon found in cities and many rural areas around the world. It was introduced to North America from Europe in the early 1600's and settled comfortably in a wide range of climatic and living conditions. It has adapted to life around humans, learning to live on discarded food and offerings of birdseed, finding roosts and nesting sites using many manmade structures (such as under bridges and in the nooks and crannies of buildings). It is larger and rounder than the Mourning Dove (they are from the bird family of pigeons and doves), with small heads and short legs. Wings are broad but pointed, and the tail is wide and rounded. It can be found in many colour combinations, but the most common colour is blue-grey with two black wing bars, a black tipped tail, and iridescent throat feathers. They have been domesticated for more than 5,000 years. So long ago that it is impossible to figure out where they originated from.

## FUN FACTS



- Rock Pigeons usually gather in flocks. They commonly feed by walking or running on the ground pecking for food.
- Pigeons are able to find their way home even if released a long way from home.
- Pigeons are a favorite prey of urban Peregrine Falcons, an endangered species in our area.
- Although some find them a nuisance, there is no proof they have had a negative impact on native species.




If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information [www.calgarywildlife.org](http://www.calgarywildlife.org)



## Contact Us

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