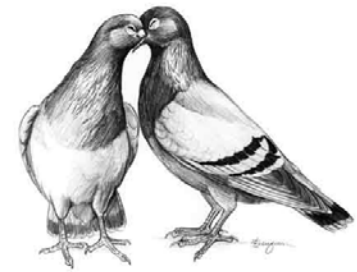


## Welcome to PigeonWatch!

You are joining thousands of PigeonWatchers across the globe to help the Cornell Lab of Ornithology scientists determine why feral pigeons exist in so many different colors. PigeonWatch is a citizen-science project designed for studying birds in city environments. Please visit our website: [www.pigeonwatch.org](http://www.pigeonwatch.org) to obtain more information about the project.



Enclosed you will find instructions, quick reference sheet to colors and courtship behaviors, outline of a pigeon for note-taking, data form, a return envelope, frequently asked questions sheet, and a full-size PigeonWatch poster. Also included is a full-color mini-poster with handy quick instructions on the back for you to use when you PigeonWatch. If needed, please photocopy any of the materials. You can also download more data sheets at: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pigeonwatch/data>

Please don't forget to submit your data to us—every little bit helps, even when it seems too small. We also would like to hear about your experiences and any other information, such as photos, essays, journals, and research papers. We might use your submissions on our website and Lab publications.

It is easiest (and best for the environment) for us to keep participants updated through our e-newsletter. If you don't already receive it, please send an email to [PigeonWatch@cornell.edu](mailto:PigeonWatch@cornell.edu) so that we can include you.

Thank you for all your support and for your great observations.

Enjoy!

Karen Purcell  
Project PigeonWatch  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
159 Sapsucker Woods Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
[PigeonWatch@cornell.edu](mailto:PigeonWatch@cornell.edu)

# Instructions

## Prepare to Collect Data

### 1. Learn PigeonWatch color morphs and courtship behaviors

- Learn to identify the seven PigeonWatch color morphs and courtship behaviors (use the poster and color morph/behavior sheet).

### 2. Locate or create one or more PigeonWatch Sites

- **Locate a Site:** Look for pigeons that gather in flocks and are accustomed to people. If a flock is fed on a regular basis, it should be easy to approach. Find a place to stand or sit close to your pigeons.  
or
- **Create a Site:** If necessary feed the pigeons in your area (if allowed by law). Stick to a schedule, so the pigeons will know when to expect you and your food. Pigeon eyesight is very good and the birds seem to have good memories, so wear the same color clothing when feeding pigeons. (Note: we do not encourage feeding on a permanent basis -- this encourages the pigeons to gather in large numbers and brings about the wrath of neighbors!)

### 3. Practice PigeonWatching Estimates are okay! Counting can be a challenge.

## Collect Data

### 1. Fill in the top part of your Data Form.

### 2. Count the pigeons in your flock.

- a. Count the total number of pigeons. Record this **Flock Count** on the data form.
- b. Count the number of pigeons of each color morph and record these **Color Counts** on the data form.
- c. While you count, watch for courting birds. If two birds are courting, record these **Courship Color Counts** on the data form.

### 3. Repeat your count (optional).

### 4. Send your data to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology:

**Project PigeonWatch**  
**Cornell Lab of Ornithology**  
**159 Sapsucker Woods Road**  
**Ithaca, NY 14850**