

Feeding

In spring and summer, domestic pigeons often feed in parks and gardens. There they find grass seeds and berries. They also eat small invertebrates such as worms, snails, small insects or spiders. But they find lots of food in city centres, too: bread, biscuits, cake, peanuts, banana, apples, potatoes, cheese, fish, meat, chocolate and ice cream in any combination.

Pigeons often form huge *flocks* and become a problem for cities because of the dirt they leave behind. In the city of Zurich, for example, there are about 6,000 pigeons. They leave several tonnes of droppings.

The more food there is, the more pigeons there are. Because some people feed pigeons throughout the year, their *population* is always *increasing*. Some cities have installed nesting places for pigeons that can easily be reached by city workers. They regularly take eggs out of the nests to reduce the number of chicks.



| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| <i>flock</i> | Schwarm |
| <i>population</i> | Bestand |
| <i>increase</i> | zunehmen |