



Why are there so many colors of pigeons?

PREPARE to conduct PigeonWatch

1. Learn about pigeon color morphs and courtship behaviors.
2. Find a Study Site for PigeonWatch.
 - Look for pigeons that gather in flocks and are accustomed to people
 - Find a place to stand or sit close to your pigeons
3. Fill out a Habitat Form.
For each Study Site you only need to complete one Habitat Form.
4. Practice PigeonWatching (optional).

CONDUCT PigeonWatch

1. On the Tally Sheet, fill in

- a. your name, e-mail address (optional), and identification number (optional)
- b. the number and description of your Study Site (assign a number to the location where you will watch pigeons and describe it--make sure it matches your Habitat Form), zip code for your Study Site, date of observations, and start time

2. Count the pigeons.

- a. Count the total number of pigeons in the flock: Record Flock Count # 1 on the Tally Sheet.
- b. Count the pigeons by color and record the Color Count # 1 on the Tally Sheet.
- c. (Optional) While you count, watch for courting birds. If you see two birds courting, record their colors on Courtship Count # 1.

3. Count the pigeons a second time.

- a. Count the total number of pigeons in the flock: Record Flock Count # 2 on the Tally Sheet.
- b. Count the pigeons by color and record the Color Count # 2 on the Tally Sheet.
- c. (Optional) While you count, watch for courting birds. If you see two birds courting, record their colors on Courtship Count # 2.

4. Before leaving your Study Site, record

- a. weather
- b. other notes
- c. end time

5. Submit your data

Mail your Habitat Forms and Tally Sheets to:
PigeonWatch
Cornell Lab of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

MATERIALS NEEDED

- a Tally Sheet printed from the web site for recording your data
- pen or pencil and clipboard or other hard surface
- pigeon food (if allowed; stale bread, cracked corn, bird seed, popcorn, cereal, matzo)

Optional:

- binoculars
- camera
- a bird field guide



CORNELL LAB of
ORNITHOLOGY



Funded in part by the
National Science Foundation



Name of your group (optional) _____ Your Name: _____

Email address: _____ Id Number: _____

Study Site Number and Description: _____

Zip Code: _____ Date: _____ Start time: _____ End time: _____

Flock Count #2

Count the size of the flock. . .

Color Count #2

 Next, tally the numbers of each color morph.

Record "Other" if a pigeon does not fit one of the categories. Record "Unknown" if a bird flies away before you can count it.

Blue-bar	Red-bar	Spread	Red	Checker	Pied	White	Other	Unknown

Courtship Count #2

 Circle the color morphs of the courting birds.

This color. . .

. . .courted this color:

Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown	Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown
Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown	Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown
Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown	Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown
Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown	Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown
Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown	Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown
Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown	Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown
Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown	Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown
Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown	Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown
Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown	Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown
Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown	Blue-bar Red-bar Spread Red Checker Pied White Other Unknown

Notes: