

Warehouse Coach

Improving warehouse performance

Birds in your Building

By Don Benson – www.warehousecoach.com

In this column, my suggestion is a quick and easy one to implement. I hope you find it useful.

Over the last month I have been traveling a great deal, spending more time than usual in airports, distribution centers, and at McCormick Place in Chicago, attending PROMAT, the industry's premier material handling show. While the subjects for discussions at each stop on these trips have been quite varied, one of the common elements I noticed was that in many of these sites there were birds flying around inside the buildings, and that these birds contribute to a messy space and potential health hazard.

Coincidentally, when I returned from my last trip, one of the families in the neighborhood was having a yard sale, and in an idle moment, as I wandered through the house looking at all the items I saw one that reminded me of a simple and inexpensive approach that many of my clients have used to eliminate the indoor (or outdoor) bird problem. The solution is to obtain a life size plastic replica of a barn owl and place it in a conspicuous location. In a warehouse or airport terminal or convention center I have seen them mounted on a joist, 10-20 feet inside and above the open dock doors.

Apparently when small birds fly through the open entry (e.g., a dock door), they look around and see the owl. They see the silhouette of the owl, recognize it as a predator, and immediately fly back out again. Consequently, there are no more birds in those buildings.

This approach has worked for many and I expect it will work for you.

If you have a suggestion for a topic or an issue that is standing in the way of improving the performance of your warehouse, contact me. I am sure we can work out a solution and it might make a great topic for another column. You can reach me at coach@warehousecoach.com.