

# ULTRASOUND EVICTS PESKY PIGEONS

AS ONE OF FLORIDA'S larger generators of electricity using primarily coal for fuel, Gainesville Utilities operates a huge track hopper building where railroad cars pull in to deliver coal. "The structure is open at both ends," said Ted Wilson, facilities manager. "It's big enough to hold three railroad cars at once and twice as tall as the cars." The wide-open building was appealing to pigeons searching for shelter. Starting about three years ago, pigeons flocked to the track hopper.

"Twenty to 30 pigeons began roosting on the steel I-beams," Wilson said. "They created a big problem with odors and mess." The birds were irritating to workers. "Dead birds that fall out of nests are not appetizing," Wilson said. He worried that if he did not do something, the problem would multiply – literally.

Wilson knew that his predecessors had taken steps to deter the pigeons, but their efforts had little permanent effect. The open-ended

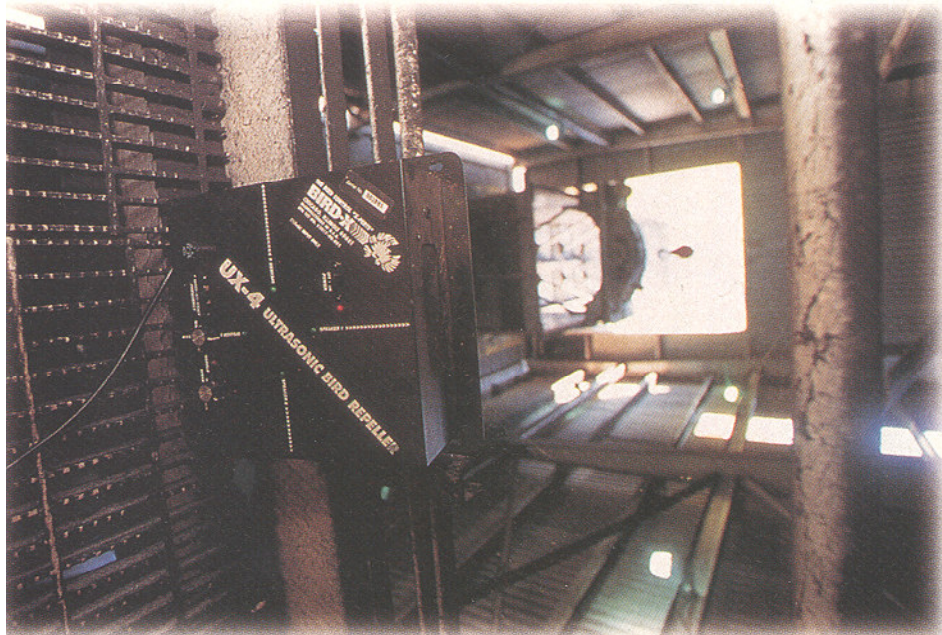
track hopper building was too attractive to the birds, and by practical necessity, too accessible to prevent their entry.

Wilson contacted Bird-X of Chicago to inquire about its QuadBlaster QB-4 unit. The QuadBlaster claimed to deliver ultra high-frequency sound waves, beyond the normal human hearing threshold. The sound annoys birds and discourages them from inhabiting areas near the device. Wilson ordered one. "First, we pressure-washed the building and cleaned it up. Then we installed the QB-4 unit," he said. "I took a lot of heat from coworkers for buying a black box with funny-colored lights on it ... But I was desperate."

His crew placed the unit on a beam about 20 feet above the floor and turned it on. The birds high-tailed it out of the track hopper forever. The unit has kept the hopper pigeon-free for three years now.

Wilson notes that the cost of pressure-washing the building and repainting it was more than the cost of the unit. He recently purchased a second unit for use in an open storage building, but said no one teased him about it this time.

Circle 131



*The QuadBlaster QB-4 keeps Gainesville Utilities' track hopper building bird free.*