



## Don't use rodent poisons! They kill more than rodents.

New York City is a great place for hawks, falcons, owls, and other birds of prey. Red-tailed Hawks, for instance, often build their nests and lay eggs on the ledges of our high-rise buildings. From March through June, birds of prey hunt food for themselves and their growing family. In July and August the chicks are learning to hunt for themselves. What do they eat? Rats, mice, squirrels, and pigeons.

New York City is also a great place for rats and other rodents. There are many nooks and crannies for nesting and plenty of food in open garbage bins, sidewalk trash bags, and sidewalk litter. Rodents need to be controlled because they can spread disease and damage property, but some methods of rodent control can result in the death of the birds of prey that hunt them.

**In one study, rat poisons (anticoagulant rodenticides) were detected in 84% of dead birds of prey found in New York City. Protect our birds of prey—refrain from using chemical poisons to control rats and other rodents.**

See inside to learn how rodenticides harm our birds of prey and how you can keep rodents under control using alternative methods that are safe for birds and other wildlife.

## For more information on rodents and rodent control:

NYC Rodent Academy  
[www.nyc.gov/rodentacademy](http://www.nyc.gov/rodentacademy)

NYC Rat Information Portal  
[www.nyc.gov/rats](http://www.nyc.gov/rats)

Safe Rodent Control Resource Center  
[www.saferodentcontrol.org](http://www.saferodentcontrol.org)

National Pesticide Information Center  
[npic.orst.edu](http://npic.orst.edu)

EPA rodenticide resources  
[www.epa.gov/rodenticides](http://www.epa.gov/rodenticides)

New York City is home to over 350 species of birds. Let's work together to ensure a safe place for our fellow New Yorkers. For information on how to help our avian neighbors, contact us:

New York City Audubon  
71 West 23rd Street, Suite 1523  
New York, NY 10010  
212-691-7483



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NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON



# Rodenticides and Birds of Prey

The methods we use to control rodents can have a devastating impact on our birds of prey.

*Red-tailed Hawk Photos © Laura Goggin*

[WWW.NYCAUDUBON.ORG/RODENTICIDE](http://WWW.NYCAUDUBON.ORG/RODENTICIDE)

# The Dangers of Rodenticides

## There is no safe rodent poison for our birds of prey.

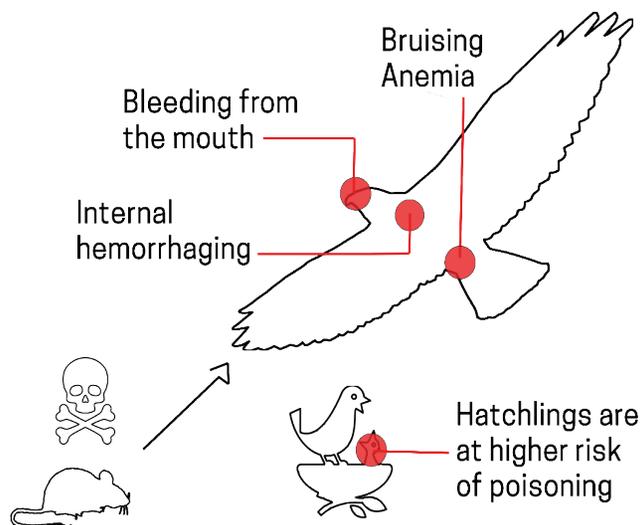
Rodenticides, also called rat poisons, are commonly used to control rodent populations. One type, called anticoagulant rodenticides, cause death by stopping normal blood clotting.

Anticoagulant rodenticides pose a serious risk to rodent predators such as hawks and owls.

Rodents that eat the poison bait take several days to die, and during that time become slow and sick—easy targets for predators. When predators eat these rodents, they become poisoned themselves.

Newer or “second generation” anticoagulant rodenticides are the most harmful because once consumed, they can stay in the body for months. Many birds of prey can have repeat exposures that can build up to deadly levels.

## Anticoagulant rodenticides can cause:



### Recommended

- Securely store food
- Seal up holes and leaks
- Use Integrated Pest Management

### Use with Caution

- Snap or electric traps

### Do Not Use

- Any Rodenticide
- Glue Traps

## Be on the lookout for poisoned birds of prey!

A poisoned bird of prey requires immediate professional medical care if it is to survive. Be on the lookout for any birds of prey that are exhibiting symptoms of rodenticide poisoning. The most obvious symptom of a poisoned bird is bleeding from the mouth. A poisoned bird of prey will also exhibit lethargic behavior, such as not attempting to move when approached. If you find a possibly poisoned bird of prey in New York City, please call NYC Audubon at 212-691-7483. Our organization will provide guidance over the phone and alert professional bird of prey rehabilitators to check on the bird.



Red-tailed Hawk Being Treated for Rodenticide Poisoning at the Wild Bird Fund in Manhattan

# Responsible Rodent Control

## The best method of rodent control is prevention.

Trapping and exclusion are the first line of defense against rodents! Take preventative measures by removing what rodents need: food, water, and shelter.



Keep all garbage and food in tightly sealed containers. Locking bins are best, as rats can easily tear through plastic trash bags.



Do not leave food for pets or other animals outside.



Remove standing water—fix leaky pipes and holes where water pools.



Remove dense vegetation from around and on buildings. It provides ideal rat habitat.



Seal openings to the building that are ½ inch or larger with stainless steel mesh and cement or products designed specifically to exclude rodents.



If you still have rats, use non-chemical methods of control such as snap or electric traps. We do not recommend the use of glue traps.

## Advocate for non-poison methods of rodent control.

Ask your landlord or building manager about the use of rodenticides in your building. Be an advocate for the use of non-poison methods of rodent control and safe use of rodenticides.

If you need to hire a pest management professional, ask for and choose one that has experience with **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** services. IPM is a prevention-based pest control method that is less harmful to animals and people.