



NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON



Rodenticides and Birds of Prey

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

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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. What do they eat? Rats, mice, squirrels, and pigeons.

Rats and other 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 our birds of prey due to secondary poisoning.

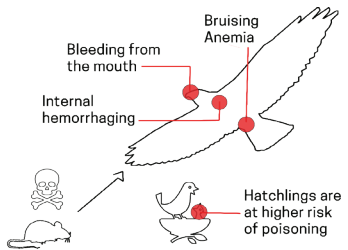
In one study, rat poisons (anticoagulant rodenticides) were detected in 84% of dead birds of prey found in New York City. Protect our birds of prey—refrain from using poisons to control rats and other rodents.

Avoid using poisons to control rodent populations.

Birds of prey hunt for food anywhere they can find it, not just in natural areas. Hatchlings are especially vulnerable to poisoning because of their small size. We recommend the following approach to rodent control:

1. Never use rodenticides in parks and other natural areas. Avoid using chemical poisons anywhere at all, especially during hawk breeding season (March through August).
2. Use **Integrated Pest Management** techniques, prioritizing prevention and alternate methods of control such as trapping or dry ice.

Anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning can cause:



If alternative controls aren't working and you must consider rodenticides, follow these guidelines:

1. Do not use second generation anticoagulant rodenticides brodifacoum, difethialone, bromadiolone, and difenacoam.
2. Do not use first generation rodenticides for more than one week at a time. Use only the recommended amount.
3. Always follow label directions.