

## **INVASIVE BIRD: City Pigeon (*Columba livia*, Rock Dove)**

**DESCRIPTION:** City pigeons, also known as rock doves, are closely related to native Palauan birds such as belochel and biib. They are about the same size as belochel, and are usually gray in color, with stripes on their wings. They reproduce rapidly and are found in high populations in many cities around the world.

**THREAT:** The city pigeon reproduces rapidly, and will eat almost anything. It has a well-deserved reputation for carrying diseases harmful to both humans and other birds. It is a hardy bird, and with its rapid breeding habits and open diet it can out-compete most other species of land-based birds in Palau. It is a threat to valuable native Palauan birds either through transmittal of disease or by out-competing them. It can also spread diseases to humans.

**CURRENT STATUS:** City pigeons were imported into Palau for use as pets or as food supplements on fishing vessels. All of the city pigeons that have been reported or found in Palau have been destroyed. However, the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection (DFWP) is concerned that some pigeons might have been released or are still being kept as pets. DFWP officers continue to keep a lookout for this dangerous invasive bird. It is illegal to own a city pigeon in Palau.



**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** If you own a city pigeon, turn it in to the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection (DFWP), who can kill it humanely. If you know someone who owns a pigeon, tell them how it threatens Palau's native birds, farms and natural ecosystems, and inform DFWP. If you see a city pigeon anywhere in Palau, please inform DFWP at 488-2487.