

triggered at relatively close range. A predator making an aggressive attack on the birds such as when the hawk has been intentionally directed into the flock does disperse the birds several metres, but temporarily - ie for a few minutes. The frequent (almost daily) visits from gulls (highly successful predators on pigeons) causes the pigeons to maintain a flight distance of around three to five feet from these dangerous predators (even when two gulls are preying together). Regardless of these (now notorious) killers of pigeons being at the Square, and the pigeons, strong awareness of the danger they present, pigeons continue to arrive and even land within a few feet of the gulls before feeding time. Therefore, the non-deterrent effect of a major predator -whether gull or hawk - is clear even at close range and thus a predator on the Square is highly unlikely to prevent birds arriving later in the day.

Pigeons respond typically for endemic non-solitary-to-high density biological populations -ie the individual bird does not expect to be killed in a large flock and therefore is not easily deterred by a predatory threat. This 'flock mentality' means that the gull or hawk is of negligible or no deterrent value in this regard.

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