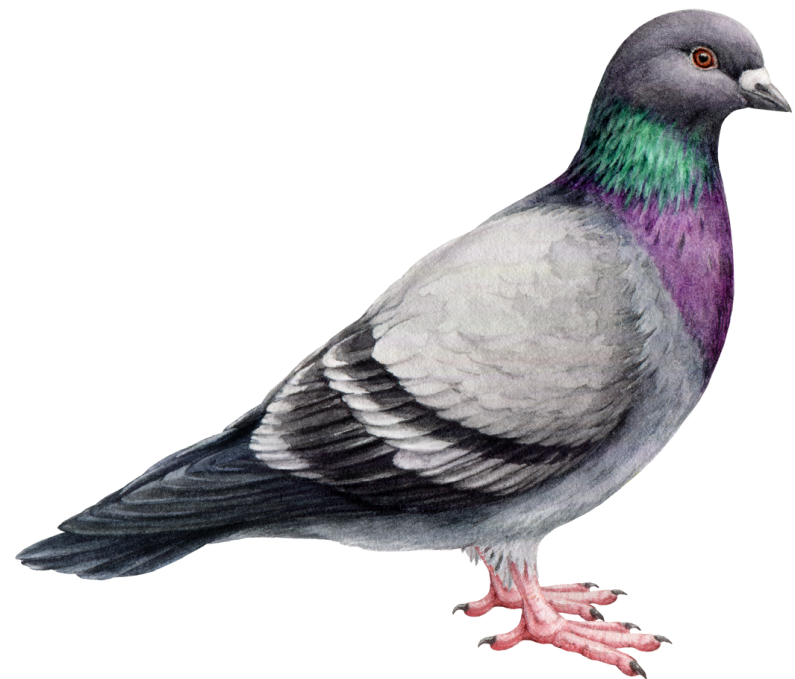


City Survivors: The Secret Life of Pigeons

Most people don't give pigeons a second glance as they hurry through city streets. With their bobbing heads and grey feathers, they seem ordinary – even annoying. But pigeons are far more impressive than they first appear.

Descended from wild rock doves, pigeons have adapted brilliantly to life in towns and cities. They build their nests on ledges and rooftops, copying the cliffs their ancestors used. Their sense of direction is so sharp that scientists once used them to carry messages in wartime.



Even their messy reputation isn't entirely fair. Pigeons are clever, sociable birds. They can recognise faces, solve simple problems, and learn patterns. In fact, some scientists have trained pigeons to tell the difference between pieces of art by different painters!

Next time you spot a pigeon pecking at crumbs, try looking a little closer. These city birds might be more remarkable than you think.