RECEIVED ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES SECTION  FEB 2 4 1338  DIVISION OF PHYSICAL PLANT U. T. AUSTIN	Wat De Camp g Don I J www	MALES HANT BE SO.  AND SO SO.
soffering method	end with	The COPIES OPPIES
Dr. W Offic The L P.O. E	2/14	DEMT'S OFFICE T. AUSTIN 37161
Austin, rexas 78/13-7389	PERMPERS 'PECOTHER	7 l986
Dear Dr. Cunningham:	PHYS CAL PLANT	RECORDS  RECORD OF REFURN  FUE OF DECAPS
I would like to call your att significant enough to warra problem has steadily worse	ention to a problem on campu ant some type of action by the ned since I enrolled in gradu:	us that I believe is

and is now to the point where most students, faculty, and staff would be hard pressed not to be aware of it.

The problem is the proliferation of Boat-Tailed Grackles (Quiscalus quiscula) on most parts of our campus. These birds congregate outside Gregory Gymnasium each evening after feeding off refuse and garbage on campus and in other parts of Austin throughout most of the day. They have made an unsightly mess of the walkways, trees, and sidewalks around the gym, Taylor Hall, and Jester Dormitory. There are so many bird droppings in the area that the trees are literally white. This, by the way, has caused some students waiting for shuttle buses to carry umbrellas. Probably the most noticeable effect of the problem is the stench from the droppings. However, the din the birds make is also an annoying distraction for students and visitors alike.

These birds are by nature non-urban. They have been able to adapt to urban areas by their feeding habits as well as by taking advantage of smaller song birds. There are numerous ways to address the problem. A humane and efficient method is to use high pressure hoses to spray the birds with an ammonia-water solution. If this is repeated each time the birds congregate, they can be driven from the area. I understand this method has been used successsfully in urban areas in Illinois.

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Singerely,

"This document contains personally identifiable information from a student's education records. It is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C.§ 125.24) and may not be released without the consent of the student "

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE THE DIES	Arthuro INT EXT PROI
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	MAR 1 0 1988
Austin, Texas 78712-1162 (512) RESD 481 MAR 08 198  HANDLE_INFOCOMMENTS & RE  OTHER:	PERMPERS
OHEA.	March , 1988
MEMORANDUM	44059 TIN
<u>TO</u> : President William H. Cunningham	
FROM: Professor Carl O. Oppenheimer ESB 1.04	
	AND A SUFFICIAN

RE: Bird Problem

I do not want to burden you with another problem and I know that some effort is being made to clean the results of each night of bird droppings. However, my area of 24th St. seems to be getting worse. To understand the effort, one must walk the area as I do at 7 am and in wet weather when the streets and walks are slippery and messy and have a stench that stays with you for several hours. It is getting to a point of danger. Yesterday, on the way to the building, I was hit and my black sweater had a large white spot. It is now 7 a.m. and in 45 minutes, I must walk from the ESB to Geology to teach. The steps on the East end of ESB on 24th St. have not been cleaned for many days. On the walk, I will wade through the bird droppings wet with the morning rain.

What to do? Surely with the talent of the faculty, some solution can be found. Wash the areas with a collective device from 7 to 10 and reduce classes accordingly. The birds leave about 7:15, but the time varies with the weather and sun. Find some repellant chemical such as that used by the cherry farmers. Noise will not help. Buy trained hawks. Genetically produce sterile birds—a job for the new Institute of Molecular Biology. Let the Engineering School have a competition for a street and sidewalk cleaner to remove the material and convert it to fertilizer. Get the Dept. of Physics and Psychology to study bird behavior to find some energy source that will repel the birds. Offer a research fund on a competitive basis with \$50,000 for example, for solutions. Surely somewhere in this great University there is a solution.

Scotland Carl

DIR.	DIR. OF PHYSICAL PLANT U.T. AUSTIN		A	l H
	TO		Ĭ.	) F 0.
A&E	ADMN	BRC		<u> </u>
CUST	GENL	GROS		
KEYS	MNTG	P&S		
P&T	SAFTY	STORE		
TRNG				
DE CA	MP	WILSON	·	
	PROVIDE	G	OPIES	-
RETURN	TO ME	FII	E	

## COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Department of Chemistry · Austin, Texas 78712-1167 · FAX (512) 471-8696

WORANDU JAN 17 1990 PERM. PERS SPEC OTHER PHYSICAL PLANT

DIR O	F PHYSICA	I PLANT		
U.T. AUSTIN		Â	43	
1	n .			
AGE	MGA	BRC	应数	
CUST	GENL /	CARS	1	
KEYS	Mata	185		
P&T	SAFTY	STORE		
TRNG		/		
Wilst	PROVIDE	II mshu	NG COPIES	-
RETUR!	3:1 OT 8		CH E	

TO: FROM: Jerry Decamp

J. Gilbert DATE: 01-09-90

RE: Grackles

Jerry, the above-mentioned birds have exceeded all bounds of propriety, have overstayed any reasonable limits of hospitality, and must be invited to vacate the campus. More particularly, they are no longer welcome to occupy the the live oaks and other trees that line the streets in the vicinity of Welch Hall! They constitute an eyesore, via their "droppings" on streets, sidewalks and vehicles, and their leavings abuse and assault the nostrils. Indeed there exists a potential hazard to humans, due to the spherical seeds these birds excrete or spit out with great abandon. These seeds replace the need for a skateboard when one is attempting to walk east on the south sidewalk of 24th Street; it is a wonder that no one has fallen and broken a leg as a result of them.

Although the previous paragraph contains a certain element of humor, I am absolutely serious about the need to address this problem. I cannot imagine the thoughts that would have passed through a visitor's mind, were he or she to have walked past Welch Hall during the Christmas break. The stench was unbelievable, to put it mildly, and the sidewalks were "knee deep" in leaves that were amply coated with excrement. One of my colleagues noted a characteristic wrinkling of the nose when he was escorting a prospective graduate student from ESB over to Welch Hall. This student was clearly put off by the odor, and who knows whether this will weigh in her decision about coming here for her further education.

What can be done--legally? For starters, I suggest that you explore the possibility of installing speakers in and around the trees. These speakers should sound off at random intervals, and possibly at different pitches. The noise presumably will disrupt their roosting behavior. It will also disturb the human population, but I think not in a major way. I believe that such a "solution" was attempted several years ago in the vicinity of the women's dormitories, but was abandoned because of complaints that the noise disturbed students attempting to study/sleep. I doubt that a comparable problem would exist in the area of an academic building such as Welch Hall.

I am told that a similar effort is being made on the River Walk in San Antonio. Perhaps you might contact the cognizant officials there to ascertain whether or not they have achieved success.

My appreciation in advance for your consideration of this problem. These birds are making our work environment a much less pleasant place to be, and their leavings are repugnant to employees and visitors alike.

## Help!

xc: Boyer, Burshnick, Monti, Wilson