



CLOSE TO HOME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Feed the Birds?</i>	1
<i>Pest Inspector's Journal</i>	1
<i>Nightmare Nests</i>	2
<i>Common Mistakes</i>	2

**Our New
Phone
Number!
381-0395**

Insects of Autumn



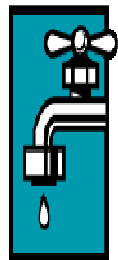
Box Elder Bug



Western
Conifer
Seed Bug



Cluster Fly



BIRDFEEDERS+ WATER+ A SMALL HOLE



Peeking through that hole is a picture of a Norway Rat. It is essentially the only rat we find in the greater Rochester area. At first glance it can be mistaken for cute, but don't be fooled. This rodent is capable of spreading disease, causing fires, and painful bites.

Norway rats are more common than you might think – and it is quite easy to get them in your yard. To survive, rats (and mice) need a ready food source, a water supply (especially rats), and shelter. Shelter is the easiest to find, in such places as underground burrows, inside boxes and drawers, and within insulation.

Unlike mice, rats need large amounts of water for survival. They will drink several ounces of water daily. Mice on the other hand will often find enough in the food they eat. Inside the house, rats will find the water they need in places like damp basements, sumps,

refrigerator drip pans, toilets, and leaky plumbing.

The single most important factor in a rat infestation is the food supply. By eliminating the food supply, one is well on the way to controlling the problem.

Here are some common food sources that attract rats in urban and suburban settings:

- 1) Bird feeders
- 2) Dog pens
- 3) Garbage cans
- 4) Compost piles
- 5) Pet foods
- 6) Grass seed

Rats find their food supply first, then a water source, and then build a home near it all.

Let's take the most common scenario and see how rats will move in:

- 1) Mrs. Smith feeds the birds. Seed drops to the ground. A rat runs by at night from the ditch next door and finds the seed.

- 2) Rat starts eating bird seed, likes it, brings friends.

- 3) Rats dig burrows near bird seed and ditch. They now have food, water, shelter.

- 4) Rat finds opening into house at AC line. Enters.

- 5) Mrs. Smith hears noise in her dropped ceiling tiles. Lets it go.

- 6) She shouldn't have let it go. Two weeks later she sees rat in her laundry tub and screams.

- 7) Now Mrs. Smith afraid to sleep at night. She calls **CastleGuard**.

Between the lines of this story are plenty of preventative measures to protect against a rat invasion. Remember, fall and winter are the times homes are most attractive to rats.

CastleGuard offers a service of sealing buildings from rodent entry. This is an important start in preventing problems. Give us a call—before that rat gets in!



THE PEST INSPECTOR'S JOURNAL!

THE ODD - THE SCARY - THE HUMOROUS

A concerned client called recently and thought there were rat droppings in the basement of their house. The "droppings" looked like the picture to the right.

I had forgotten to mention that during my last visit, I

removed a dead chipmunk that entered the basement. Flies laid eggs on the carcass, maggots consumed it, and the pupa stage of the fly is seen here.

No rats were in the house, but there were a lot of flies!





IN THE NEWS



SUPER SIZE THAT!

Leave it to the Professionals!

Rochester news sources recently ran a story of a local restaurant that was closed because of pest infestation, and improper use of insecticides.

Apparently, the owner of the restaurant was using total release foggers to control a fruit fly infestation—while food and utensils were exposed. At the same time, rats were nesting under the dishwasher.

The same problems can happen at home. Call a professional.



Southern Alabama has been visited with several "super sized" yellow jacket nests this summer and fall. By super sized, they mean nests that measure five and six feet in breadth, and have upwards to 100,000 workers. These nests are a clear danger to people passing by. One such nest was discovered inside a 1955 Chevrolet, parked in a barn (pictured here).



Entomologists believe these nests have multiple queens, a phenomena not observed before. Normally, nests will have a few thousand workers at most, and most will die off in colder autumn weather. For the full story, paste the link below into your browser.

<http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060717/NEWS02/607170317/1009>

[Fraysier Home Inspections](#)

[CastleGuard Pest Management](#)

94 Jefferson Ave., Fairport, NY 14450 P:585-381-0395 phi3@frontiernet.net www.fraysierhome.com

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE!

Q: What are the most common homeowner repairs you run across that are done improperly?

A: Most deal with electricity. Here are the common ones:

- 1) **Over fusing:** This is done by putting a larger fuse/breaker in the panel than the attached wire can safely handle. It is done to extend circuits and prevent nuisance tripping. The result is too much current traveling through the wire, causing overheating, and possibly a fire. This is a safety issue and needs repair immediately.
- 2) **Double Tapping:** This refers to attaching two or more circuits to one breaker/fuse. It is usually done to conserve limited space in a panel.

Arcing can occur across these wires. It is best to use one wire per breaker.

- 3) **Reversed Polarity:** This refers to an electrical outlet that has the hot and neutral wires attached to the wrong screws in the receptacle. This is simple to fix, and important if anything valuable (i.e., computer, stereo, etc.) is using it.
- 4) **Blocked Soffit Vents:** Soffits are the overhangs at the low end of the roof. Vents are usually cut in to allow air into the attic space. Over zealous insulators can cover these vents with fiberglass and cause moisture and heat buildup in the attic—a recipe for mold! It's a simple fix to clear these vents and save major roof repairs down the road!



ASK JOHN!

Q: What are the most common errors homeowners make when applying pesticides on their property?

A: Here are the top three:

- 1) **Use of Aerosol Foggers:** It is ingrained in most people's thinking that these foggers kill everything. They are commonly used for fleas, roaches, spiders and flies. **They are usually**
- 2) **Rodent Baits:** The mistake is made where these are used. Just because baits can be purchased in stores does not make them safe for use everywhere. I have often found pelletized bait above food sources in kitchens—an accident waiting to happen!
- 3) **Bee Sprays:** Sprays in aerosol cans should only be used sparingly, outside. Because they are petroleum based, they can permanently stain vinyl siding and shutters. User beware!

only effective on flying insects. Airborne pesticides will affect airborne pests. That is why they are ineffective for roaches and fleas. Aerosols can also quickly kill fish and birds in a house, and contaminate exposed foods.