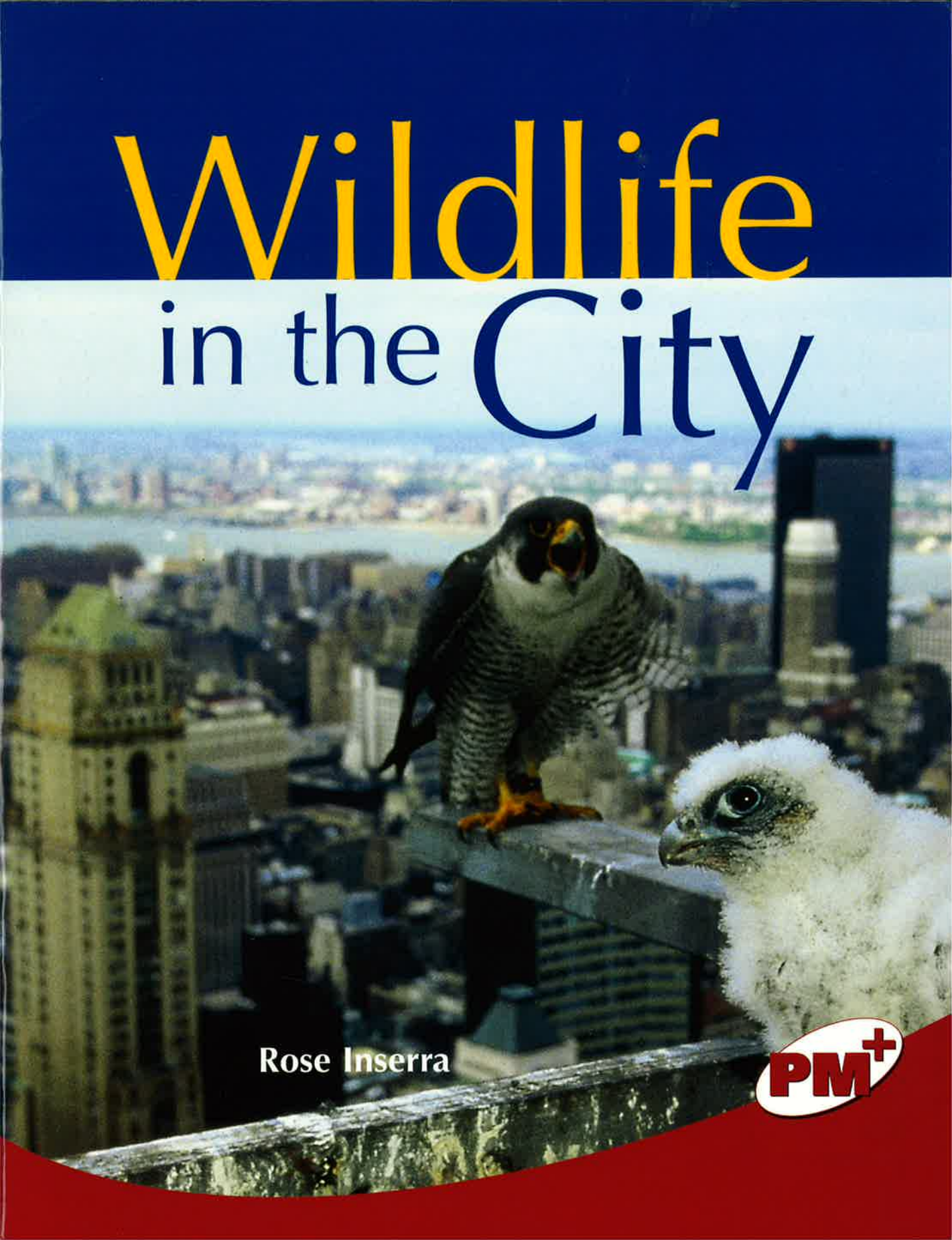
Wildlife in the City



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Chapter 1

Changing Habitats

Our environment is always changing. Sometimes people clear land for building cities, towns and farms. As the population of a city grows, more land is cleared for houses and **industry**. People bring **exotic** animals and plants to these areas, which were once the **habitat** of many kinds of native wildlife and plants.



A new housing estate.



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When people change or destroy habitats, many animals **adapt** to the changes by finding other places to live. Towns and cities — even your own backyard — can provide alternative habitats. Buildings, parks and gardens, swimming pools, ponds and fountains supply wildlife with their basic needs: food, water, shelter and protection from **predators**.

It is important to protect the natural environment and native wildlife, but we can also share our cities with animals. What animals live around you? Go outside, sit quietly and watch. You will soon see!



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Chapter 2

Birds

If you go for a walk in any town or city in the world, you will probably see two types of common birds: pigeons and sparrows.

Pigeons



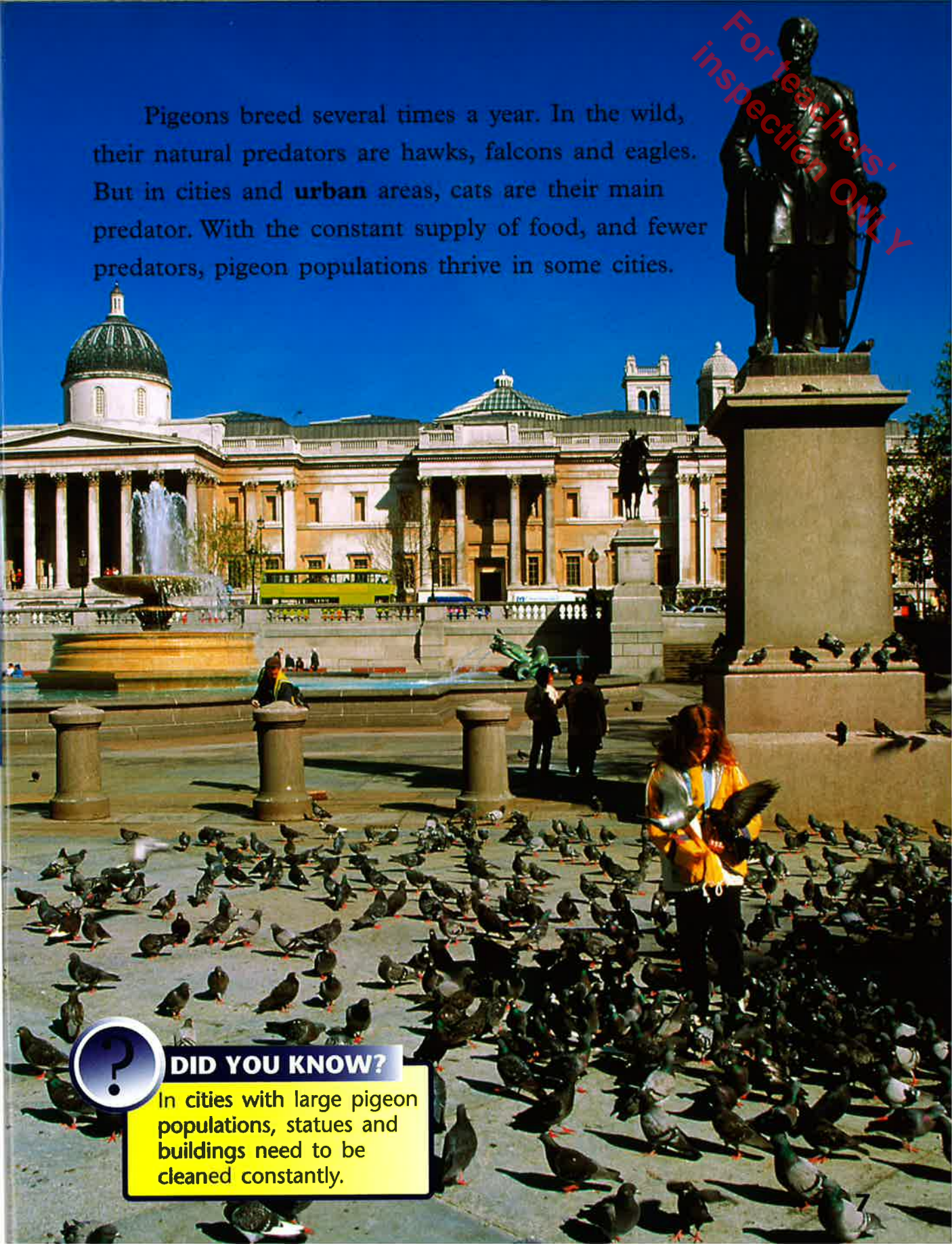
In the wild, pigeons live on cliff faces or lightly wooded grasslands and build their nests in the cracks and ledges of cliffs. In towns and cities, skyscrapers and bridges provide ideal nesting places, while window ledges and **eaves** of rooves are good places to shelter.



In their natural habitat, pigeons feed on grain and seeds. In towns and cities, they can be found around wharves, railway yards, grain **silos** and wherever there is grain. They also feed on food scraps and handouts from people. Fountains, drinking taps, water sprinklers and ponds all provide water.

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Pigeons breed several times a year. In the wild, their natural predators are hawks, falcons and eagles. But in cities and **urban** areas, cats are their main predator. With the constant supply of food, and fewer predators, pigeon populations thrive in some cities.



DID YOU KNOW?

In cities with large pigeon populations, statues and buildings need to be cleaned constantly.

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Sparrows



Some sparrows feed on seeds and grains in open fields. But many sparrows have moved into cities where there is plenty of food and shelter. Sparrows eat leftover grains from silos and nibble on food scraps.

They rest in shady corners and make their nests by **scavenging** bits of paper, thread and plastic as well as using some natural nesting materials such as dry grass and feathers.