

# History of Domestic and Feral Pigeons (*Columba livia*) in Finland before 1900 A.D.

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The oldest certain evidence for domestic pigeons (*Columba livia*) in Finland dates back to 1557, when pigeons were kept at the Iso-Heikkilä royal estate near Turku. For the period 1600–1800 evidence is extremely scarce. In the 19th century both domestic and feral pigeons were well-known in Finland, although rarely mentioned in ornithological literature. In Helsinki there were feral pigeons in 1831–1847, and by around 1880 they were established in several cities in southern and central Finland. Although pigeons were sometimes kept in Finnish manor houses in the 19th century (e.g. in Haminalahti), this was probably not common. U. Godenhjelm, the local postmaster in Mariehamn (Åland Islands), was granted permission to build a dovecote in 1894, and was mentioned as the first trainer of messengers in Finland. Besides messengers, in the late 19th century pigeons were experimentally used as decoy birds in hawk-traps. There is no evidence for organized persecution of urban feral pigeons before 1900.



## 1. Introduction

Domestic and feral pigeons are globally widespread descendants of the Rock Dove (*Columba livia*), which are either actively taken care of by human beings (domestic pigeons) or which live freely and more or less independently of human care, usually in built-up environments (feral pigeons) (Johnston & Janiga 1995). Although the history of feral pigeons in Finland has not been thoroughly studied (von Haartman *et al.* 1967–1972), it has been assumed that they descend from messenger pigeons introduced to the country in the 19th century, or from domestic pigeons commonly kept in Finnish manor houses in the 19th century (von Haartman *et al.* 1967–1972, Häkkinen 1983). Whatever their origin, according to Mela (1882) there were established populations of feral pigeons in the cities of southern Finland

by the 1880's. Feral pigeons now breed commonly in built-up environments in southern and central Finland, and even in Lapland (Huhta 1987, Väisänen *et al.* 1998). The total population is estimated to be about 40 000 breeding pairs (Väisänen *et al.* 1998).

In this paper we review the history of domestic and feral pigeons in Finland, primarily based on historical sources. We were mainly interested in finding out when the first domestic pigeons were introduced to Finland, as well as the past uses of pigeons and their spread into urban environments as feral populations. So far, only the spread of domestic and feral pigeons in Lapland in the 20th century has been thoroughly studied (Alapulli 1964, Huhta 1987). A major problem encountered was that old Finnish ornithological literature did not pay much attention to domestic and feral pigeons, probably because scientific ornithologists

were more interested in “natural species”. For example, domestic pigeons did not have their own species chapter in the pioneering monograph of von Wright (1859). Therefore, most of our evidence was found in non-ornithological historical sources such as newspapers. In other historical sources domestic pigeons were sometimes mentioned as members of poultry, or as agricultural pests. From the 20th century there are some data on the use of messenger pigeons for military purposes (e.g. Myyrä 1968). Due to the overall scarcity of data, our knowledge of the history of domestic and feral pigeons in Finland will unfortunately remain incomplete.

## 2. Data sources

We systematically searched for reports on domestic or feral pigeons in the biological and hunting literature published in Finland before the 20th century, for instance in the journals *Luonnon Ystävä*, *Sporten*, *Tidskrift för Jägare och Fiskare*, and in publications of the *Societas pro Fauna et Flora Fennica*, the oldest scientific society in Finland. We also looked for information on pigeons with help of two bibliographies, one on all newspaper articles published in Finland from 1771 to 1890 (“Suomen sanomalehtihakemisto 1771–1890, 97, Luonnonhistoria 1”), located in the main library of the University of Helsinki, and the other focusing on old medical and biological literature (Reuter & Luther 1909). We also sought data on pigeons in the Merikallio Archive (University of Oulu) and in the Palmén Archive (University of Helsinki). To find local information that would concern the last decade of the 19th century (not covered by the above-mentioned newspaper bibliography), we searched for all observations or articles on domestic and feral pigeons in the leading newspaper of the city of Turku (SW Finland, 60°27'N, 22°15'E) in 1890–1900. In 1890–1896 the newspaper studied was *Aura*, in 1897–1900 *Uusi Aura* (‘New Aura’). In addition to these sources, we also checked archaeological and historical studies for information on pigeons and doves. Finally, we interviewed specialists on the history of hunting in Finland (Mr. J. Kairikko, interview 8 September 2000; Mr. J. Lahtinen, interview 23 August 2000) and a leading specialist

in the history of the Finnish manor houses (Dr. C. J. Gardberg, interview 12 September 2000).

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Archaeological data

There are no certain archaeological findings of *Columba livia* in Finland (K. Mannermaa, pers. comm.). However, a bone of either *Columba oenas* or *Columba livia* has been found in the late Iron Age layers in Raisio (60°30'N, 22°10'E), dated approximately from the late 900's to early 1200's (Tupala 1999). Bones of *Columba* sp. were also unearthed in excavations of the mediaeval Kuusisto castle near Turku (I. Kylänen, unpubl.). Unfortunately, species-level identification of remains was considered impossible in both studies.

### 3.2. The Middle Ages

According to bishop Olaus Magnus' history of the Nordic people, originally published in 1555, domestic pigeons were hardly ever kept in the Nordic countries (Olaus Magnus 1925, p. 115).

Captive pigeons (probably domestic pigeons) were first mentioned in the plan for the canonisation ceremony of bishop Hemming (bishop of Turku 1338–1366), to be held 17–18 June 1514 in Turku (Gardberg 2000). According to the plan written by Dr. Hemming Gadh, pigeons (in the original Swedish text “dwffor”) and some other birds were to be released inside Turku Cathedral at the climax of the holy ceremony (Hausen 1933). Unfortunately, there are no surviving documents of the ceremony itself, and therefore it is not known whether the plan was followed (Gardberg 2000). Thus we only know that there was a serious plan to use pigeons in the ceremony, which may indicate that they were available. The latter assumption is supported by the fact that Hemming Gadh was a native of Sweden and probably familiar with local conditions.

According to Sähke (1963) domestic pigeons (“dufver”) were kept in the royal estate of Iso-Heikkilä near Turku in 1557. This is the oldest certain evidence of domestic pigeons in Finland. In 1562 some pigeons were fed in Turku with rye and barley (Nikula & Nikula 1987, p. 449).

### 3.3. 17th and 18th centuries: The “dark” years

Extremely little is known about domestic pigeons in Finland during this period. Tornberg (1973) does not mention pigeons in her detailed study of animal husbandry in southwest Finland in the 17th century. However, the scarcity of data may be explained by the fact that poultry (at that time chicken, geese, ducks and turkeys) had no importance in taxation (Tornberg 1973). Suolahti (1912) also does not mention pigeons or dovecotes in his monograph on Finnish vicarages in the 18th century. It thus seems unlikely that pigeons would have been common in the Finnish vicarages or manor houses in the period 1600–1800.

There is, however, some evidence from this “dark” period as well. Nikander (1984, p. 156) mentions that pigeons were indeed sometimes kept in manor houses, and that in Alberga (close to Helsinki) Colonel von Zansen was charged in 1792 for letting his flock of pigeons (about 30 birds) forage regularly on his neighbour’s fields and pea storages. Domestic pigeon (*Columba domestica*) was also mentioned in Johan Heinrich’s checklist of bird species of Lohja (60°15’N, 24°00’E) in 1766 (Heinricius 1895).

### 3.4. Domestic and ferals in the 1800’s

#### 3.4.1. General references

Several independent sources imply that domestic and/or feral pigeons were well-known in Finland by the 1850’s or 1860’s, perhaps even earlier. An article in the children’s journal *Aamurusko* wrote about “our tame pigeons” (in Finnish “kesyt kyyhkyisemme”) and made a distinction between birds that live independently of human care and those that are taken care of (i.e., domestics; Anon. 1857). A newspaper article gave detailed instructions on how to build a dovecote (Anon. 1862). In his book on Finnish birds, von Wright (1859) wrote that the Rock Dove is a remarkable bird because it is the ancestor of “our tame pigeon” (in the original Swedish text “stammoder för vår tama dufva”, von Wright 1859, p. 308). In an elementary-level textbook of zoology for schools it was mentioned that *Columba livia* is commonly kept in captivity (it was not specified where), although it can cause damage to agriculture (Murman 1866).

#### 3.4.2. Messenger pigeons

We found no evidence on the keeping or training of messenger pigeons in Finland before the late 19th century. The global history of messenger pigeons was discussed in two newspaper articles (Anon. 1871a, Anon. 1880). Neither of them mentioned anything about the keeping of messengers in Finland. Most early reports dealt with observations of foreign messenger pigeons in the country. An individual messenger pigeon, a bird that landed on a ship in the English Channel, was transported by ship to Turku in 1873 (Anon. 1873), and possibly another one in 1886. The latter bird was captured in the North Sea, and at least some of its wing feathers were taken as souvenirs to Turku (Anon. 1886). Both birds had markings on their wings. Several captive pigeons (probably messengers) were introduced by ship to Reposari (61°28’N, 21°45’E) in 1882, but all except one soon disappeared (perhaps with the same ship that had brought them to Finland; Anon. 1882a).

In 1890–1900 the Turku newspapers mentioned three attempts or plans to use messenger pigeons in Finland (Table 1). The fact that two pairs of messenger pigeons had to be ordered from France for use in the Bogskär lighthouse (Table 1) indicates that such birds were not readily available in Finland. The same article that reported on this attempt mentioned that many people had found the idea of using messenger pigeons ridiculous (Anon. 1890).

Uno Godenhjelm, the postmaster in Mariehamn in the Åland Islands, was introduced in the hunting and fishing magazine *Tidskrift för Jägare och Fiskare* as the first (and so far only) trainer of messenger pigeons in Finland (Anon. 1895). Godenhjelm was an active hunter, and the vice-president of the Åland Game Protection Society (Anon. 1899, Godenhjelm 1899a). In 1894 he was granted permission to build a dovecote in Mariehamn (60°05’N, 19°55’E) to promote communication between the lighthouses and pilot stations of the Åland Islands, on the condition that pigeons would not be used for international contacts (cf. Table 1). He appears to have been concerned about his birds’ safety, as in 1895 he attempted to promote hunting restrictions on all pigeon species in Finland to save his messenger birds from stray bullets in the hunting season (Anon. 1895). He

later published observations on the behaviour of domestic pigeons when attacked by Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) or Sparrowhawks (*A. nisus*) (Godenhjelm 1899b).

### 3.4.3. Pigeons as decoys in hawk-traps

In the 20th century (especially since the 1930's) domestic pigeons were frequently kept in the countryside of Finland to be used as decoy birds in various cage traps for hawks, in particular the Goshawk (Lindgren 1939, 1943). This was based on the observation that Goshawks eagerly prey on pigeons (Anon. 1893). To our knowledge this use of captive pigeons was first presented in a small Finnish-language hunting guide published in 1878 (Anon. 1878). This booklet recommended the use of chickens or pigeons as decoy birds. Essentially the same method was introduced as a novelty in the hunting magazine *Sporten* in 1892 (Wadén 1892, see also Anon. 1893), and again in *Metsästys ja Kalastus* in the 1920's (Dieden 1924, Laine 1925), which probably means that by the early 1920's capturing hawks with different types of cage traps had not yet gained much popularity.

Although the structure of the cage trap dif-

fered between these reports, all of them recommended keeping live pigeons inside the cage as decoys. Captive pigeons were considered the most effective attractors of Goshawks (Dieden 1924). In his paper, Laine (1925) presented a photograph of the first Goshawk captured in Finland with Hamilton's cage trap. Although this bird may have been the first specimen captured with the Hamilton-type cage trap, Wadén (1892) had already successfully captured Goshawks with another type of cage trap, using cockerels and live pigeons as decoy birds. Thus it is clear that in Finland this use of pigeons began in the late 19th century.

An interesting question is where live pigeons for traps were captured. This was unfortunately not mentioned in Wadén's article (or in Anon. (1878)). When the method became more widely used in the 20th century, birds were either taken from private dovecotes particularly kept for this purpose (J. Lahtinen, pers. comm.; Lindgren 1943, p. 184–185) or were simply captured in the nearby village or town (Lindgren 1950, p. 686). In the late 1930's the Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture even sent feral pigeons captured in Helsinki to local hunting organizations to be used as decoy birds (Lindgren 1939).

Table 1. Newspaper reports on domestic and feral pigeons published in *Aura* (1890–1896) and *Uusi Aura* (1897–1900) in Turku, SW Finland.

Date of publication	Contents of the report
4 November 1890	A plan to take 2 pairs of messenger pigeons to the Bogskär lighthouse for communication purposes. The birds were ordered from France.
19 August 1891	Three experiments with messenger pigeons in the Viipuri region (SE Finland).
25 July 1893	A feral pigeon trapped by little boys, who tied a wire to its legs, was freed in the Turku market place. The children's behaviour was criticised.
2 March 1894	Permission was granted to U. Godenhjelm for building a dovecote in Mariehamn to improve communication between lighthouses and pilot stations. Pigeons must not be used for international contacts.
5 September 1895	Little boys wounded a feral pigeon in Turku by throwing stones at it. The children's behaviour was criticised.
17 September 1895	A feral pigeon whose legs had been tied together was released in Turku. The mistreatment of the bird was criticised.
31 July 1896	A feral pigeon whose legs had been tied by a rope was released in Turku. The mistreatment of the bird was criticised.
30 December 1897	An article encouraging readers to feed pigeons in winter.

### 3.4.4. Urban feral pigeons

The oldest known source on Finnish urban ferals is von Wright (1848), who wrote that in late autumn and winter Goshawks arrive in Helsinki (60°08'N, 25°00'E) and frequently prey upon pigeons. Thus it seems that feral pigeons were already established in Helsinki in 1831–1847, when von Wright collected his data in the capital of Finland. Several decades later a Woodpigeon was observed in Helsinki “in the company of some tame relatives”, a statement that probably refers to feral pigeons (Anon. 1882b). In March 1898 a Starling was observed with a company of “some pigeons” in Helsinki (Anon. 1898). From the late 19th century (starting from 1880) there are several egg samples collected in Helsinki for oological collections (Merikallio and Palmén Archives).

We found evidence for urban ferals in five or six other Finnish cities in the 19th century. In Kokkola (63°50'N, 23°10'E) the pigeons were reportedly very common “some years ago”, but had “all fallen prey to hawks and other predators and had totally vanished” (Anon. 1871b). In the center of Vaasa (63°06'N, 21°36'E) a Sparrowhawk was hunting pigeons in the winter of 1881 (Anon. 1881), and one or more Goshawks predated on pigeons in 1885 (Hästbacka 1993). In Turku the size of a captive messenger pigeon was compared to “our common tame pigeons” (in the original text “*wåra wanliga tama dufwor*”) (Anon. 1873), which probably refers to local ferals. Turku newspapers mentioned domestic or feral pigeons eight times in the years 1890–1900 (Table 1). Finally, feral pigeons were reported to be common (“*talrik stannfågel*” in the original text) in Viipuri (60°45'N, 28°41'E) in 1883 (Starck; Palmén Archive) and the species was also known in Sortavala (61°40'N, 30°40'E) 1899–1900 (K. E. Stenroos; Palmén Archive). The cities of Viipuri and Sortavala were lost to the Soviet Union in the Second World War.

It is possible, although not certain, that pigeons also existed in Kemi (65°40'N, 24°30'E) in the very late 19th century. According to Alapulli (1964) pigeons were introduced to this city “around the year 1900”. The oldest record from Rovaniemi (66°30'N, 25°42'E), the capital of Lapland, is from ca. 1901 (Merikallio 1958).

### 3.4.5. Pigeons in rural settlements

We found no evidence to support the assumption that dovecotes were common in Finnish manor houses in the 19th century. A three-volume monograph on Finnish manor houses did not mention dovecotes or pigeons in discussions of livestock kept in the manor houses (Nikander *et al.* 1928–1929). A specialist on the history of the Finnish manor houses was not familiar with any dovecotes in Finnish manor houses (C. J. Gardberg, pers. comm.). Also the fact that pigeons for hawktraps had in many cases to be captured in villages or cities (cf. 3.4.3.) suggests that dovecotes were uncommon in the Finnish countryside.

Still, at least some dovecotes existed in Finnish country houses. The famous artist brothers von Wright had a dovecote in their family house in Haminalahti, near Kuopio (62°54'N, 27°40'E), at least in the 1850's and 1860's, and made several paintings of their captive pigeons (Leikola *et al.* 1989). Domestic or feral pigeons were also kept in the Nyby Inn near Nastola (61°00'N, 25°55'E), where successful breeding of pigeons in mid-winter 1882 attracted local attention (Anon. 1882c).

The northernmost certain breeding location of feral pigeons in Finland in the 19th century was Pudasjärvi (65°30'N, 27°00'E), where two eggs were collected from a nest in a school building on 11 April 1891 (W. Lindman's egg collection, Palmén Archive; Merikallio 1958).

## 4. Discussion

Our results show that domestic pigeons were at least occasionally kept in Finland in the mid-1500's, three centuries earlier than previously thought (cf. von Haartman *et al.* 1967–1972, Häkkinen 1983). Even earlier dates of first introduction are possible, as there are archaeological findings from southern Sweden that date back to the 13th to 15th centuries (Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1980). It seems likely, however, that domestic pigeons were uncommon in northern Europe in the Middle Ages (Olaus Magnus 1925).

The second main result is that urban feral pigeons were established in Helsinki in 1831–1847 (von Wright 1848). Previously, it was only known

that feral pigeons existed in the cities of southern Finland in the early 1880's (Mela 1882). In total we found evidence for urban ferals in six or seven Finnish cities (Helsinki, Turku, Vaasa, Kokkola, Viipuri, Sortavala and possibly Kemi) before 1900. Feral pigeons may have been much more widespread than these scattered examples show, as "tame pigeons" were clearly familiar to the reading Finnish audience by 1850 or 1860.

It is interesting to compare this chronology to the situation in other Nordic and European countries. In Denmark domestic or feral pigeons probably arrived relatively early in historic times (Aaris-Sørensen 1998). The same is true for southern Sweden (Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1980). In Uppsala (59°55'N, 17°38'E) and Stockholm, Sweden, feral pigeons were abundant in the beginning of the 20th century (Fredriksson & Tjernberg 1996). The nine bones of *Columba livia* discovered in Trondheim, central Norway (63°36'N, 10°23'E), approximately from the period 1700–1780 may have belonged to domestic or feral pigeons (Hufthammer 1998). The earliest London record is from 1385 A.D., when a colony was reported breeding in St. Paul's Cathedral. Still, there were only three known nesting sites of feral pigeons in London in the mid-19th century (Glutz von Blotzheim & Bauer 1980).

By the late 1800's urban feral pigeons were firmly established in the cities of southern and central Finland, as both Mela (1882) and our data show. Apparently at that time they were not yet considered urban pests. Individual cases of persecution were condemned by local newspapers and the birds were even fed in winter (Table 1). However, later events show that the obvious increase in the population sizes of urban ferals (see e.g. Natunen 1901) soon caused problems related to increasing dirtiness caused by the birds' droppings, and the time of active persecution was not far ahead. For example, in Turku the first pigeon control program was started in the fall of 1911 (Anon. 1911).

The commonly held view in Finnish ornithological literature that domestic pigeons were frequently kept in Finnish manor houses in the 19th century (von Haartman *et al.* 1967–1972, Häkkinen 1983, Leikola *et al.* 1989) is not supported by our study. Although pigeons were indeed kept in some manor houses, such as the von Wrights' in Haminalahti, this was probably exceptional. The

most common uses of captive pigeons in the 20th century, i.e. their use as messengers or as decoy birds in hawk-traps, were still rare in the 19th century, and it is therefore difficult to see why dovecotes should have been widespread in the Finnish countryside. Dovecotes in Finland before the 19th century may have primarily produced food for their owners, although there is no direct evidence to support this assumption. In other parts of Europe domestic pigeons have been a highly valued source of food (Hansell 1998).

It is probably not a coincidence that interest in messenger pigeons arose in Finland in the late 19th century. The frequently cited successful use of messengers in the Franco-Prussian War in 1870–1871 increased interest in the use and training of messengers all over Europe, including, for instance, Sweden (Brehm 1926, p. 36). Therefore it is not surprising that their use also spread gradually to Finland. However, systematic training of messengers for military purposes did not start in the country until 1923 (Myyrä 1968).

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## Selostus: Kesykyyhkyn historia Suomessa ennen vuotta 1900

Kesykyyhkyn historiaa Suomessa ennen 1900-lukua ei ole aiemmin tutkittu. Kirjallisuuteen perustuvan tutkimuksemme tarkoitus oli selvittää, milloin kesykyyhky tuotiin Suomeen ja milloin vapaana elävät kyyhkypopulaatiot yleistyivät maamme kaupungeissa. Selvitimme myös kyyhkysten käyttötarkoituksia. Työn edetessä kävi ilmi, että tietoa kesykyyhkyistä on mahdollisesti säilynyt liian vähän kattavan kokonaiskuvan saamiseksi. Osaltaan säilyneen tiedon vähyyttä selittää

ornitologien väheksyvä suhtautuminen “puluihin”. Esimerkiksi 1800-luvun lintutieteilijät kirjoittivat kesykyyhkystä ani harvoin. Suurin osa kyyhkyjen varhaisvaiheita valottavasta tiedosta löytyykin muualta kuin biologisesta kirjallisuudesta.

Vanhin varma tieto kesykyyhkyistä on vuodelta 1557, jolloin niitä hoidettiin Iso-Heikkilän kuninkaankartanossa Turun liepeillä. On kuitenkin mahdollista, että kyyhkyjä käytettiin jo piispa Hemmingin autuuttamisjuhlassa Turun tuomiokirkossa vuonna 1514. Mikään ei viittaa siihen, että kyyhkyslakat olisivat olleet Suomessa tai muualla Pohjoismaissa yleisiä keskiajalla. Piispa Olaus Magnus mainitsee vuonna 1555, että kyyhkyjä pidettiin Pohjolassa hyvin vähän, ehkä ei lainkaan.

1600- ja 1700-luvuilta tietoja on säilynyt äärimmäisen niukasti. Kesykyyhky kuitenkin mainitaan Johan Heinriciuksen laatimassa Lohjan lintuluettelossa vuodelta 1766. Vuonna 1792 eversti von Zansen nykyisestä Leppävaarasta joutui käräjille päästettyään kyyhkyseparvensa ruokailemaan naapurinsa Magnus Bergin kuhilaille ja hernehaasiaan Perkkaalla.

Kesykyyhky yleistyi Suomessa viimeistään 1800-luvulla. Helsingissä kyyhkyjä oli jo vuosina 1831-1847, jolloin Magnus von Wright keräsi aineistoaan pääkaupunkiseudun linnustosta. Helsingin lisäksi kesykyyhkyjä tavattiin 1800-luvulla useissa muissakin silloisen Suomen kaupungeissa kuten Turussa, Vaasassa, Kokkolassa, Viipurissa ja Sortavalassa, ehkä aivan vuosisadan lopussa Kemissäkin. Maaseudulla kyyhkyjä oli ainakin tilapäisesti Nastolassa, Pudasjärvellä ja Haminalahdessa Kuopion lähellä. Kesykyyhky näyttää olleen maassa yleisesti tunnettu lintu viimeistään 1850- ja 1860-luvuilla.

Kirjallisuudessa mainitaan, että Suomen kartanoissa pidettiin 1800-luvulla yleisesti kyyhkyklakkoja. Tutkimuksemme ei tätä käsitystä vahvista. Paremminkin näyttää siltä, että kyyhkyklakat olivat 1800-luvulla harvinaisia. Kartanoita koskevasta historiallisesta kirjallisuudesta niistä ei löytynyt mainintoja, eikä haastateltu kartanohistorian asiantuntija (C. J. Gardberg) myöskään tiennyt yhtään 1800-luvun kartanoa, jossa kyyhkyjä olisi pidetty. Ainoa löytämämme poikkeus on von Wright -veljesten Haminalahti Kuopion lähellä, jossa kyyhkyjä pidettiin ainakin 1850- ja 1860-luvuilla. Kyyhkyjen vähyyteen maaseudul-

la viittaa myös se, että vielä 1900-luvun puolella haukkahäkkeihin houkutuslinnuiksi tarvittavat kyyhkyset käytiin yleisesti pyydystämässä läheisissä kylissä tai kaupungeissa.

Kyyhkyjen pitämiseen maaseudun herraskartanoissa ei näytä myöskään olleen erityistä tarvetta, sillä viestikyyhkyharrastus levisi maamme ilmeisesti vasta 1890-luvulla, jolloin siihen tosin vielä suhtauduttiin epäluuloisesti. Maamme ensimmäisenä viestikyyhkyjen kasvattajana mainitaan maarianhaminalainen postimestari Uno Godenhjelm, joka vuonna 1894 sai luvan kyyhkyklakan rakentamiseen. Jo 1800-luvun lopussa kyyhkyjä käytettiin ainakin koe-mielessä houkutuslintuina haukkahäkeissä. Tämä kanahaukkojen pyyntimenetelmä yleistyi kuitenkin vasta 1920-luvun jälkeen.

Kaupunkien kesykyyhkyihin suhtauduttiin 1800-luvulla ilmeisesti pääosin myönteisesti, eikä niitä tiettävästi vainottu. Sanomalehtikirjoituksissa paheksuttiin kyyhkyjä kiusaavia pikkupoikia, ja jopa suositeltiin kyyhkyjen ruokkimista talvella.

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