

Excess Baggage Grounds Drug-Smuggling Pigeon

A drug-smuggling pigeon has been captured outside a Colombian prison after being overloaded with marijuana, police have confirmed.

The pigeon was attempting to fly into a prison in Bucaramanga, in the country's north-east, with 1.6 ounces of the drug attached to its body.

However the bird's flight plan was thwarted because of the illicit excess luggage.

Two police officers were able to catch the bird as flapped helplessly near a house.

"This is a new case of criminal ingenuity," General Jose Angel Mendoza, Commander of Bucaramanga Metropolitan Police, said.

They were trying to smuggle drugs into Bucaramanga prison by using messenger pigeons," he said.

Colombian drug gangs have used ingenious techniques before - including a parrot trained to act as a lookout.

In the latest incident, police found the bird with a white paper package strapped to its back.

The pigeon was caught close to the prison and believe it had been trained by prisoners or their criminal associates.

"We found the bird about a block away from the prison trying to fly over with a package," General Mendoza said.

"But due to the excess weight it was impossible for the bird to accomplish the objective and it ended up being caught by the police."

Police also revealed carrier pigeons have been used in the past to transport mobile phone sim cards to inmates.