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The Role of A Bird Control Department



A brief Overview of Present Bird Harassment Techniques



And do they work?



What is the best device used for minimising the risk to aircraft from wildlife on airfields?

We have 2 types of control:

Leathal control?

Firearms

Trapping

Passive control?

Bio Acouistics

Lasers

Mirrors

Natural predators



Pyrotechnics



Pyrotechnics always play a part in bird control.

Shooting

Shooting is used primarily to enhance the non-leathal methods and to control population and to remove persistent birds.

Shooting can also be used to scare birds rather than kill.

Bird scaring Cartridges

A projectile fired from a modified flare pistol that emits a bright trail followed by a loud crack.

Birds generally fly away immediately

Bio Acoustics



Bio Acoustics have played a large part in Bird Control since the first trials in the early 80's

Distress and Alarm calls

In general, **alarm** calls are given when birds perceive danger, whilst **distress** calls are vocalised when birds are captured, restrained or injured.

Since then, the understanding of the system has come on in leaps and bounds with Scarecrow Bio Acoustic Systems Ltd leading the way in development.

Falconry



The use of trained Falcons for bird control goes back to the early 60's

The Royal Navy conducted a trial on a north Scotland Naval Airfield against Gulls and wading birds.

The results of these trials were so successful that the Navy set up dedicated Units to manage the problem.

These Full time falconry units still exist today.

Dogs



Dogs represent an actual, not perceived threat, and so stimulate flight reactions in birds.

A single border collie and its handler can keep an area of approximately 50 square kilometres free of larger birds and wildlife

Habituation is very unlikely as they can continually pursue and change their behaviour.





With some of the methods though, birds can quickly become habituated.

I've seen birds foraging around gas cannons, only to fly a distance from it 5 seconds before it goes bang!

Shooting

Birds will quickly realise the lethal range of the shot, and conveniently step just out of range.

It takes time to get out of a vehicle, load a gun and shoot. normally by this time the birds have flown.

Bird Scaring Cartridges

The explosion can scatter the flock

Firing may be limited due to air traffic



All of the methods we use, require one common denominator.

The Man!

It is the man that uses the tools to carry out the task

As an industry, we place a lot on the tools. But do we place enough emphasis on the man?

Predators

Trained predators (falcons and dogs) Trained falcons and dogs, which are both potential predators for many species of hazardous birds found on airports, are undoubtedly effective in dispersing birds. To work properly, however, considerable investment in the training of both the animals and their handlers needs to be made. This training is essential both to ensure that the animals themselves do not become a strike risk and also to ensure that the deterrent value of deploying the falcon or dog is maximised. Airports should not underestimate the staff time and cost involved in incorporating falcons or dogs in their bird control programmes.



Falcons represent a real threat to birds and will not be ignored. Their use close to aircraft requires great care, skill and considerable expense.

It is also important to remember that falcons and dogs are not effective at dispersing all hazardous birds in all conditions. They should be regarded as one tool amongst many that the bird controller can use. The use of trained predators alone is not an adequate substitute for the other bird management techniques described above.

Standard 4

Bird control staff should be equipped with bird deterrent devices appropriate to the bird species encountered, the numbers of birds present, and to the area that they need to control. Staff should have access to appropriate devices for removal of birds/wildlife, such as firearms or traps, or the means of calling on expert support to supply these techniques at short notice.





Thank you

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