Managing Birds in Agricultural Landscapes

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Picture Credit: James Thiel, USDA Wildlife Services
Jack H. Berryman Institute
www.berrymaninstitute.org

- Founded in 1993 – Utah State University
- Dedicated to improving human-wildlife relationships and resolving human-wildlife conflicts through teaching, research, and extension.
- Outreach and engagement public policy working groups and forums
- HWI – Research, Policy, and Management
- http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/hwi/
- Monographs
- Continuing education for the professional and stakeholders
<table>
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<th>Species</th>
<th>Damage</th>
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<td>Gulls (Protected)</td>
<td>Building damage, Nuisance</td>
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<td>Blackbirds (Protected)</td>
<td>Crops (corn, sunflower, rice), Nuisance</td>
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<td>Starlings</td>
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<td>Pigeons, House Sparrows</td>
<td>Grain contamination, Building Damage</td>
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<td>Crows, Ravens, Magpies (Limited Protection)</td>
<td>Predation (birds, livestock), Crops (corn, fruit), Nuisance</td>
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<td>Turkeys (Protected)</td>
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<td>Raptors (Protected)</td>
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<td>Woodpeckers (Protected)</td>
<td>Damage to wooden structures, Nuisance</td>
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<td>Ducks, Geese, Sandhill Cranes (Protected)</td>
<td>Crops, Nuisance</td>
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</table>

K. VanCauteren, R. Dolbeer, E. Geese, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
Gulls

Photos courtesy Utah DWR
Blackbirds – Starlings – Grackles
Crows, Ravens, and Magpies
Turkeys

Photos courtesy Utah DWR
Raptors – Birds of Prey
Woodpeckers
Ducks, geese, and cranes

Photos courtesy Utah DWR
Birds are Legally Protected

• **Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918** makes it illegal to intentionally capture, kill, or disrupt certain birds or their nests and eggs. Over a thousand species of birds are covered in this act.

• **The Endangered Species Act** was passed in 1973 to protect birds that are declining in numbers and are at risk for eventual extinction.
Birds are Legally Protected

- Federal regulations require that a depredation permit be obtained before most migratory birds can be captured, killed, possessed, or transported to control depredation.
What are the options when bird damage occurs?
What the professionals recommend:

- Plastic Bird Spikes to keep from roosting
- Wind powered Bird Spiders
- Sonic Birds
What the professionals **DON’T** recommend:

- Ultrasonic devices
- Propane Cannons
- Lethal Control (poisons, guns, traps)
Other legal bird control methods

- Bird Netting
- Avian Block
- Avian Fog
- Visual Barriers
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
Basic Components of IPM

- Responsible pesticide use
- Biological controls
- Physical/Mechanical controls
- Preventative cultural practices
- Monitoring
Take aways

• Bird Identification is key
• Bird Location and Activity will focus control efforts
• An integrated approach with monitoring will alleviate and prevent the issue
Resources
Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit

Depredation Permit
Chad Heuser USDA Wildlife Services: chad.Heuser@usda.gov
Resources

Resources

https://www.birdbgone.com/

https://reedjoseph.com/

https://extension.usu.edu/pests/schoolipm/ipm-plan/control-procedures