

Beak Speak

A publication of **Flock Fighters** USA

Winter Edition, 2007



Upcoming Events

Wildlife Control
Technology
Meeting;

January 28-30,
Covington, KY

Did you know?

- * PG&E is using Fog Force to fog birds for it's second year! For more information, see page 2.
- * Flock Fighters participated in a major fogging campaign for Equistar. 20,000 Grackles left the area within 5 nights! Contact us for more information.
- * Flock Fighters USA is celebrating its 10 year Anniversary this year! We incorporated on March 7, 1998.
- * Flock Fighters USA has fogged more birds than any other applicator in America!

The Foul Product of Winter Fowl

The change in weather affects birds just like it affects people. For those in temperate zones, colder weather is a director for birds. Their needs for water, food reserves and warm roosts are intensified by the cold and drive them toward urban and industrial sites.

For birds, finding a reliable food source is the primary need. Many locations, landfills, wastes sites, dumpsters and even home garage cans are principal feed sources. Home bird feeders meant to feed native birds also sustain less desirable birds. Most birds also need daily sources of water; decorative fountains, storm water/sewer flows and retention ponds provide for these species. Car washes and snow melts from roofs and parking lots can sustain colonies of winter birds in urbanized areas.

Another key driver for all birds in the winter is, of course, heat. Sites which are generating heat draw birds, particularly for night time roosting. Not only do heat exchangers on roofs provide ideal roosting areas, but asphalt roofs/parking areas absorb sunshine that can create a 10° difference (or more) from the air

temperature.

Why is this important to you?

Weather-directed behaviors are an important study for those who are affected by nuisance birds or for wildlife professionals charged to provide solutions to bird impacts. Many species of birds exhibit gregarious behavior in winter time. They assemble nightly in family, clans or "tribal" groups, and in the case of black birds can create "nations" of millions of individuals.

Winter roosting birds produce **one major negative consequence** that disgusts everyone: Manure accumulations. This filth can create health issues, both allergenic and pathogenic; safety concerns due to slick footing; corrosion; and maintenance, clean-up and repair costs.

Because of the longer nights in winter, the birds deposit the majority of the manure in the roosts. In the case of Pigeons, this can mean the ten birds on the ledge, or a roof can drop 10-15 lbs a month. 100 starlings in a roost drop 100 lbs a month. Many large roosts receive tons of manure over the winter.

BIRD WATCH: Natives vs. Exotics

Currently, five species of common birds are declared as "exotics". Not native to North America, they have no less established themselves as permanent residents. Pigeons, Starlings, English Sparrows, Muscovy Ducks and Monk Parakeets all produce negative consequences to man-made sites and these harmful effects are intensified by winter cold.

Many native species create issues as well. Most notably are the non-migratory Canada geese, mallards and several species of sea gulls. Due to open water features and available food, they can subsist on their summer territories. Crows and Ravens also have found accommodations, which allow more northerly winter roosts. Most natives migrate south,

(which impacts southern sites), but a number of species have adapted to man-made environments and either persist through the winter, or find it unnecessary to fly all the way to the deep south, unless a severe cold snap arrives.



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U S A

'the nation's leader in chemical bird aversion'



Goose Season is Coming!

Within the next SIX WEEKS, geese will be flocking to sites around the country. NOW IS THE TIME to begin planning your bird-aversion strategy! Contact us today and we will help keep you bird-free, efficiently and effectively!

The Conquering Hero

Flock Fighters USA is the "hero" in the PG&E bird story, "Fog Deters Birds from High Voltage Roost", included in the October Issue of T & D Magazine. In October, 2006 Flock Fighters USA was retained by the Pacific Gas and Electric to deal with winter roosting Starlings at the Table Mountain Sub Station in Oroville, CA. The results were a complete success! The full story is reported at: http://tdworld.com/substations/fog_deters_birds/. The following is excerpted from the article:

PG&E has seven substations that experience significant bird problems, and the annual cost to clean these capacitor banks is approximately US\$270,000.

Historically, utility personnel have used explosive devices, such as bird bombs and propane cannons, to control nuisance birds at an annual cost of about \$16,000 per substation. While these devices are somewhat effective, they can cause an immediate massive bird exodus, which can trigger an electrical imbalance and potential outage. Because of the limitations of pyrotechnics, annual cleanup costs and power-reliability issues, PG&E went in search of an alternative that would discourage use of electric substations by nuisance birds.

Given the positive results of the controlled tests, PG&E chose its Table Mountain substation, located near Oroville, California, for a field test. [of Fog Force]. Prior to the initial application conducted Sept. 18, the number of birds roosting in the capacitor banks was estimated between 50,000 and 75,000. Birds attempting to roost in the series capacitor banks demonstrated a strong aversion to the RejeX-it fog. In all three applications, birds were reduced nearly to zero within several days. Substation operations experienced no negative effects and no complaints were received from employees during or after testing.

Based on these results, PG&E will continue to use RejeX-it at the Table Mountain substation and will evaluate using it at additional substations with significant nuisance bird problems.

For utilities, Fog Force aerosol bird aversion is a leading tool for expelling birds from energized systems. The fog does not impact hardware, transmission or staff. Fog Force has also been used to expel nuisance birds in power generation structures, warehouses, cooling stacks and ponds.

Fog Force has been used in many other industries and municipal sites.

For more information about Fog Force, go to www.flockfighters.com, or call 800.489.6651