

USAGE FALCONRY FOR SCARING FLOCKING BIRDS IN THE CITY

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Abstract It is no doubt that deterring numbers of birds (gulls, ravens) is necessary in the city. Huge flocks of birds carry nuisance, noise, disease and they poultry manure reduce water quality. Also, birds increase warranty of bird-strike with aircraft/helicopter. Usage falconry for scaring flocking birds based on the natural fear of before the predators. We used trained birds of prey every day and all daylight initially. Visible and acceptable results have been achieved by flights of raptors during 6-7 weeks. Then we reduced the flight intensity and operating time while maintaining a sustainable result. After year of working with birds of prey we recorded declined twice quantity of flocking birds on the city area (Apr.2018 – 2500, Apr.2019 – 1000). Also, we recorded increase of the hazard distance since 30 m till 60-70 m (in the low season till 100 m). We marked a difference in the behavior of local population birds and migratory birds in the relevant season. We registered decrease in the attractiveness of the falconry controlled place as gulls and crows feed source. We consider that falconry is an effective, reasonable and most ethical method abundance control of the flocking birds. Trained birds of prey are a "universal tool" exactly, where the use of other technical things is difficult or impossible in the city. It should also be understood that falconry usage leads to a soft and gradual decrease in the number of gulls and crows, since most of them move to elsewhere. Nonetheless, the reduce population size flocking birds continue at the rate closest to the natural level.

Key words Bird control, falconry, urban flocking birds, waste management, birds of prey