

Crows and Other Nuisance Birds

Crows are common in North America due to their intelligence and ability to adapt to different food environments. Forming huge flocks during winter and fall is an important aspect of the crows' behavior. This behavior pattern leads to human objection because of the odor of the bird droppings and health concerns, such as the spread of disease. There are accepted methods to repel nuisance birds.

DAMAGE PREVENTION AND CONTROL METHODS

Lines - This technique is done by stretching cord or fine wire at intervals across a field at heights of 6-8 feet. Aluminum strips, Mylar stripes and/or pie tins could be tied to the wire. Studies have shown that different species react differently from lines. Generally adult birds are more repelled by lines than juveniles.

Tree Roosts - Thinning the branches on specific roosting trees make the trees less attractive and disperse nuisance birds from roosting.

Frightening - Frightening is effective in getting nuisance birds to disperse from roost sites and some crop areas. Recorded distress or alarm calls can be used. Other frightening devices include:

- battery operated alarm clocks
- shell crackers and bird bombs subject to local ordinances
- lights, bright objects, clapper devices, and/or a variety of noise makers
- hanging Mylar tape in roosting trees.

Changing the location, intensity and types of scare devices will improve their effectiveness.

Crows, like all migratory birds, are protected under the Federal Treaty law. Adult birds, their off-spring or eggs may not be harmed except under special permit. Check with your local Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer before hunting. The official crow season is July 1 to November 1.
