

2010 Alberta Recycling Conference Gull Control Program

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Introduction

- Gull Habits
- Gull Control Techniques
- Gull Control Permit Process
- Gull Control Program
- Gull Types Quiz



Gull Habits



Gull Habits

- Observations of gull habits:
 - Spring migration in mid March
 - Different species arrive at different times
 - gull pairs on loafing area
 - Nesting is offsite
 - Arrive daily with garbage trucks and leave when daily cover applied
 - Have a nearby loafing area (ponds, non-grassed areas, large roofs)
 - Gulls have a feeding hierarchy
 - Fall migration starts in mid to late October
- Other observations at other sites?

Gull Control Techniques

- Transport Canada Wildlife Control Procedures Manual (TP11500) recommended measures:
 - Passive Measures:
 - Habitat modification
 - Barriers
 - Active Measures:
 - Falconry
 - Distress alarms
 - Pyrotechniques
 - Shooting
 - Gas cannon

Gull Control Techniques

Passive measures:

- Habitat modification
 - Remove food, water sources, perching area
 - Daily cover, small active face, surface water management, tall grass on completed slopes
 - Barriers
 - Netting, wires, mesh, bird balls

Gull Control Techniques

Active measures:

- Falconry
 - Based on gulls fear of predatory birds
 - Works well while falcon is hunting
- Distress Alarms
 - Alarm(s) set for types of gulls onsite
 - Works if specific to gull species
 - Not effective if overused and no visual back-up
 - Gulls may attack alarm device
- Pyrotechniques
 - Bangers or flashes designed to startle
 - Works if not overused

Gull Control Techniques

Active measures:

- Shooting
 - Require permits
 - OH&S onsite issues
 - Not effective unless used in conjunction with pyrotechniques and gas cannons
- Gas Cannons
 - Designed to startle
 - Gulls will habituate

Gull Control Techniques

Program:

- Operations to manage active face, intermediate and final cover (grass), and pond levels to reduce access to food and loafing area
- Active gull control to use system of pyrotechniques, cannons, falconry, etc
- It is an effort that must have designated resources

Gull Control Permit Process

- Federal Migratory Bird Act and Regulation
 - Applicable Regulation section: Permits Respecting Birds Causing Damage or Danger – Regulation clauses 24 to 26
 - Permits specific to use of equipment (aircraft, firearms)
 - Falconry not included in regulation
 - Permits can be issued by Province to kill and scare migratory birds
- If using falconry require an Alberta Fish and Wildlife Damage Control License until Federal Act is amended

Gull Control Program



Gull Control Programs

- Typically initiated due to neighbor complaints of feces and residual food products on property
- Gull Control initiated used Falconry and pyrotechniques used to harass Gulls into locating another food source

Gull Control Program Findings

- Hunting falcon would make gulls flock, dive to water, or soar above falcon
- Pyrotechniques would make gulls lift and settle in a loafing area. Used when large numbers of gulls or during rain
- Alberta permit placed restriction on Franklins Gulls, the total number of gulls, but did not place restrictions on falcons being rehabilitated.
- Nearby Peregrine nesting site. Occasional territorial battle

Gull Control Program Findings Continued

- Gull fledglings not knowing other food sources would visit landfill due to starvation
- Public commented on a reduction of gulls. However, the gulls would visit their sites more frequently as forced off by falcon

Gull Quiz – Name The Gull

Gull Quiz – Name the Gull



Franklin

Gull Quiz – Name the Gull



Ring Billed

Gull Quiz – Name the Gull



Herring

Gull Quiz – Name the Gull



California

Gull Quiz – Name the Gull



Bonaparte

Gull Quiz – Name the Gull



Glaucous

Questions?



Thank You