

COMPACT Scarecrow

Using the Compact Scarecrow effectively

Please read the instructions for the unit carefully to ensure you are creating the best environment for the Compact Scarecrow to operate successfully. The following are some additional points that should help you to get the best results. They are not definitive answers, however - all bird control situations differ in many respects. It is worth taking some time to get used to how the Compact will work for you, according to your situation and the level and type of bird problem that you have.

Where to locate the unit for best results

The Compact pigeon call works best when the unit is situated above the birds. Obviously this is not possible where pigeons are in woodland but, if located high enough on a pole or similar structure, they should lift from the fields. If a unit is being used in a barn, to remove Starlings for example, users should site the Compact at the highest point possible for best effect. Some experimentation may be needed to find how the unit works best in each situation - different species react with varied urgency.

Setting the volume

The Compact volume is absolutely critical. Any bird species will assume the distress call to be false if it appears to be too loud or unnatural. Start the volume low and then gradually raise it over a period of time so that it blends in with the level of natural sound in the vicinity. Our own trials found that setting the volume to 3 or 4 is most effective, but this was in a shallow valley. Flat land may require a slightly higher volume.

Choice of distress calls

Randomising the distress calls proves to be more effective at keeping the birds at bay for longer. For example, if your problem is pigeons in rape, we recommend that you select the rook and crow as well as the pigeon distress call to play at random throughout the day. Pigeons are particularly stubborn, so the pigeon distress call is reinforced with a Jackdaw call at the end of the recording. All 3 crow species will predate the young of pigeons, so this gives added pressure on the pigeons to move.

How often to move the unit around

If the Compact is moved too soon, the birds don't associate the area with danger. Give the Compact a chance to do its job and, if necessary, move it weekly around an affected area. In our trials, total control of pigeons was achieved for up to 3 weeks after moving the unit. Depending on the lie of the land and the severity of the problem, it may be necessary to move the unit several times to cover the whole of an affected area, or more units may be needed.

Coverage area

The coverage area of the Compact in one location depends on factors such as the lie of the land, the presence of sound absorbing structures such as trees or hedges, sound reflecting structures such as buildings and walls, the mounting height of the unit and wind speed. The use of the Slave unit, giving a complete 360° coverage, would obviously add to the effect of the 200° Master unit. In our own trials on a calm day in a shallow valley, rooks and crows up to 2 miles away lifted and were disturbed. In the same valley, a 200 acre block of rape was kept clear of pigeons from one Compact location.

Effect on other animals such as horses and pheasants

The bird distress calls which are emitted are only recognisable as a threat to that particular pest species. To any other animal or person it is simply a natural bird sound.

Control of other bird species

Only 6 bird distress calls can be loaded onto the Compact at any one time. However, for a small charge, any call can be exchanged for another from an extensive library of calls. A possible requirement might be geese, and there are several options for this group of species. The Mute Swan (as its name suggests) does not have any distinctive calls so cannot be included.

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