



## BLUEBERRY FIELDS AND BIRDS

### Recommended Bird Management Strategies by Creative Scarecrows

*Creative Scarecrows* is a Whatcom County group formed in 2007 to find practical and effective solutions to reduce bird predation in ways that benefit berry farmers and their neighbors. We seek proven, efficient, economical, and *quiet* bird deterrent solutions for blueberry growers so that loud auditory devices are no longer needed. Contact us at [creativescarecrows@gmail.com](mailto:creativescarecrows@gmail.com) if you have suggestions or questions.

From actual field experience during the past 4 growing seasons, *Creative Scarecrows* recommends the following as effective approaches to bird control.

- Check or monitor actual bird conditions in the blueberry field each day--then decide if a bird scare tactic is actually needed.
- Recognize that different species respond to different scare techniques--for example, robins generally ignore ALL forms of loud noises. Other birds will get used to prolonged noise.
- Birds get used to any repeating strategy. Changing times, locations, techniques and rotating patterns are required. Habituation (birds ignoring scare tactics) will often significantly weaken bird repelling efforts.
- Some berry predation is to be expected and may not be significant.
- Invite natural predators--kestrel falcons, vultures, eagles, barn owls, etc., by using nest boxes and lures.
- We highly recommend sight repellants—like JackKites and Helikites. They are inexpensive, easy to use, and have been very effective in our field tests. We have heard good news from a grower about the taste repellent *Migrate for Agriculture* by Rejex-it.
- Starling trapping significantly reduces local flock populations. To participate, contact local USDA representative, John Qwanz 360 305-0018

Please remember that neighbors will sincerely appreciate your willingness to find alternative, quiet solutions to bird control. Thank you for your interest, and our best wishes for bountiful crops.

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#### **RESOURCES** on the web, some to start with:

**Kestrel falcon nest boxes** – [www.orchardguard.com](http://www.orchardguard.com) 509 972-3415 Ben Dover, Yakima, WA.

**Helikites** -- [www.biconet.com/birds/helikite.html](http://www.biconet.com/birds/helikite.html) 800 441-2847.

**JackKites** – [www.jackite.com/](http://www.jackite.com/) 877 522-5483. (Contact *Creative Scarecrows* for access to significant discounts)

**Biodegradable bird repellent spray** – [www.rejexit.com/](http://www.rejexit.com/) *Migrate for Agriculture* by Rejex-it 866 532-4737

For more information about bird control alternatives, please see our website at: [www.creativescarecrows.org](http://www.creativescarecrows.org)