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## HANDBOOK ON BIRD MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

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# HANDBOOK ON BIRD MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

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## INTRODUCTION

The US Air Force has over 200 bases world-wide. Each has its own indigenous and migratory species of birds. While the degree of hazard from these birds varies, the potential exists at all locations for damaged/destroyed equipment and health problems due to birds. To prepare Air Force pest managers on how to control birds, the Bird/Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Team designed a reference manual called the *Handbook on Bird Management and Control*.

## DISCUSSION

### Chapter Review

The book provides a step-by-step approach to bird management for the inexperienced pest controller and the seasoned veteran alike. CHAPTER ONE introduces the book and gives a brief definition of terms. CHAPTER TWO discusses "Bird Biology and Behavior", and gives various characteristics of different bird species, covering topics such as bird habitat, vocalizations, migration, and feeding behavior.

"Bird Identification" is the subject of CHAPTER THREE. While unfamiliar to many pest controllers, bird identification is one of the more important steps to arriving at a feasible problem solution. For this reason, the handbook explains the various field marks and structures of birds and also provides useful information on common pest birds.

CHAPTER FOUR defines the problem of birds around airfields in "Health, Damage and Economic Aspects". Several types of diseases are discussed, as well as preventative measures to take, and decontamination techniques to use for buildings and equipment. A brief description is also given of bird/aircraft strikes and their associated losses.

CHAPTER FIVE presents a systematic approach to bird problems through "Management Techniques". The first step is to assess the situation to decide if active management is required. Next, altering the situation should be considered. This means that a facility may change its flying procedures, or modify the airfield habitat to decrease the attraction to birds. Thirdly, exclusion techniques should be used to keep birds from gaining access to the airfield or structural locations such as hangars. If birds do, however, manage to enter the airdrome and cause problems, the handbook describes various ways they can be repulsed by means of auditory, visual, taste, or odor scaring devices. Finally, when the previous methods require reinforcing, removal/reduction techniques should be used. Sometimes birds may be trapped and relocated (a costly procedure), or limited numbers may need to be killed. The handbook stresses the importance of using removal/reduction as the last technique after all others have been considered. State and federal permits are required for these techniques in most cases.

CHAPTER SIX outlines methods of "Surveying a Bird Management Problem". It combines much of the information discussed in the previous chapters, stressing the use

of a survey checklist to record bird species and behaviors, attractants, and the type or degree of the problem.

"Bird Control and the Law" is introduced in CHAPTER SEVEN. The importance of working within state and federal laws is emphasized, as well as correct procedures to use for banded birds and endangered/threatened species.

CHAPTER EIGHT deals with "Bird Control and Public Relations, suggesting ways to avoid adverse public reaction to control measures taken by the pest manager. An important aspect is communications through press releases and by personal contacts. Often by simply keeping people informed, many potential problems can be avoided.

CHAPTER NINE concludes the handbook with "Suggestions for Further Study". It not only provides additional sources of information but also gives a brief summary of each publication to enable the handbook user to better choose the best references.

### **Air Force Use of the Handbook**

The primary use of the handbook in the Air Force is as a text in the pest manager technical training courses. Pest managers go on to work at Air Force installations worldwide and must have a good concept of how to solve bird problems. The handbook has chapter review questions, which help emphasize key points that will be important to the pest manager in the field.

Additionally, the handbook is very useful for self-instruction. Many find it a helpful reference, and the BASH Team receives requests from a variety of non-Air Force agencies wishing to use it.

### **Assets/Limitations**

The *Handbook on Bird Management and Control* provides pest control personnel with a one-volume reference which outlines the essentials of pest bird management. It very thoroughly discusses possible approaches to various types of problems, giving the advantages, disadvantages, and restrictions on each of the management techniques. The book, however, is slightly outdated in some of its reference listings and methods. Also, several new developments need to be included, and tested techniques emphasized. Lastly, some of the review questions at the end of the chapters are unclear and need revision. The BASH Team anticipates an update of the handbook in the near future.

### **Availability**

To order a copy of the *Handbook on Bird Management and Control*, please refer to AD number A089009 and contact the following:

(1) For registered Defense Technical Information Center users, the Defense Technical Information Center, Cameron Station, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. The cost is \$3.00 per hard copy and \$.95 for the microfiche.

(2) For non-registered users, the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161. Hardcopies are \$15.55 and the microfiche is \$3.50.

## **DISCUSSION**

**Question:** How many years have you had it out?

**Will:** It came out in March of 1980 and was developed by Vincent Lucid and Roy Slack from Phoenix, New York.

**Question:** You mentioned the book needs updating. How?

**Will:** A disadvantage of the book is that it needs to be better organized. We feel that if we stick with our step-by-step approach, we need to teach people how to survey the problem before they actually go out and use some of the techniques.