



photo by Rob Palmer

Falconry Abatement Success for Challenging Operational Environments

Considerations and Strategies

THE NATURE OF THE BEAST: *Understanding the Falcon, Falconry and Falconry Abatement*

Falconry is a millennia old hunting sport of taking wild quarry with a trained bird of prey. It delivers a lethal outcome.

Falconry Abatement is a subtle and strategic approach which takes advantage of the natural predator prey dynamic. Falconry abatement is a hazing strategy of non-lethal engagement.

Falconers shape the natural tendencies and behaviors of the raptors to provide a genuine, non-relenting threat to the target species. Not a guns blazing approach but a visible and vigilant show of lethal force

FALCONRY ABATEMENT LEVERAGES THE PREDATOR PREY RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS HARDWIRED IN THE BRAIN OF THE BIRD. THEY WILL NEVER ACCLIMATE.

for an enduring solution. Falconry abatement is a battle of attrition. A location can expect increased effectiveness year over year as many target birds will never return and they will teach their progeny of the perils.

Falcons (and hawks) are intelligent and sensitive creatures each with unique personalities, skills and optimal operating conditions. Best results are obtained when the birds are given the time and opportunity to assess the potential dangers themselves cognitively rather than instinctually then dismiss them. Confident birds are created. The confidence of a falcon direct correlates to its effectiveness. **Advance planning for contracts accommodates proper acclimation and availability of optimized raptor species for the conditions.**

Birds naturally maintain a cycle of rest and action. When not in active pursuit or prospecting, raptors perch with a vantage prepared for explosive action at the opportunity of a potential meal. Thus, a perched abatement raptor remains a visible reminder of the existent threat - a trap that can be sprung at any moment. Available deterrent techniques are predictable. Falcons are UNPREDICTABLE. This is our greatest strength and the greatest difference from the existing strategies.

The nuisance species must make a calculation of cost and risk versus reward and for each individual there is a different threshold which is why the effort must be sustained.



TARGET BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION WITH FALCON DETERRENENTS

RELOCATION

In this aerial battle, only one side is armed. While target species have some fearsome defenses, they are of little consequence to an attacking raptor with talons deployed. The birds are forced to move to feeding grounds where the danger is less persistent.

AERIAL ATTACKS

As the raptors remained undeterred by the vocalizations, the target species need to escalate even though it places them in peril as they've run out of options. Wild raptors cannot afford any injury, so they generally retreat at attacks especially when coordinated. Falconry birds do not.

THREATENING VOCALIZATIONS

Recognizing that the threat is not a bluff, the birds do flyovers screaming at the raptors in an attempt to chase them off.

CURIOSITY AND RECONNAISSANCE

As the perceived threat remains persistent, target species deploy scouts to investigate and assess.

ESTABLISH A "SAFE" PERIMETER

Nuisance species identify a concern and respond by moving out of what it considers the effective/danger zone. This movement is instantaneous and is generally temporary – a boomerang effect. Pyro hazing operates at this stage with a rubber band perimeter – birds retreat for the duration of the noise occurrence and spring back into position.



CHOOSING WELL: *Characteristics for evaluating Falconry Abatement Contractors*

Falconers work many years to build their skill, capabilities and ability to navigate issues which arise. An outfit should have **Master Falconers** on site. It takes a minimum of 7 years to achieve the rank of Master Falconer. To deal with labor constraints, there is a temptation to place Apprentice falconers in situations for which they do not possess sufficient experience.

Operating in a complex and variable environment demands a **Large and Diverse Team of Raptors**. In a vibrant and dynamic environment with rapidly changing winds, temperatures, obstacles and target species, having a deep bench of varying species allows the falconer to apply the correct tool to the situation. An example of a diverse team might include 5-8 raptors such as Gyrfalcon, Saker Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, Aplomado Falcon, Goshawk and Harris' Hawk.

To maximize safety and effectiveness, falconers should use the latest technology including **GPS tracking systems** for real time positioning in addition to the traditional **Radio Telemetry Tracking**.

Falconers who remain true to the roots of falconry abatement - the **hunting** sport of falconry – generally have raptors with lethal intent elevating the abatement activities from mere showmanship to a daily hunt.

Although Falconry abatement is highly effective compared to mimicry and passive strategies, companies should be skilled in the use of **Force Multipliers**, such as dogs, pyrotechnic acoustics, RC, and kites. Licensing and skill in operating situation specific machinery and crafts such as boats, ATVs and lifts provide a substantial advantage as well.

As public image and interaction tend to be an important component of falconry efforts for a client, **temperament matters** for the falconers and their birds to operate safely around people and in the public eye. Falconers should demonstrate good command over their birds.

Experience Matters. Ask for the falconer's experience in industrial situations, references and longevity of current and prior contracts. Agricultural clients can provide excellent insight as they maintain precise understanding of necessary costs and will not retain a falconer who does not provide good value.



THE COST OF MASTERY: *Proposed costs for falconry abatement services*

Professional Abatement Falconers are a highly specialized service provider requiring years of training and experience. In America, there are only around 4500 sport falconers and of those, 150 are professional abatement falconers. Falconers must purchase, train, and maintain a team of specialized raptors and dogs.

As falconers are in high demand during peak season, sliding scale pricing can account for flight days spread out over longer calendar periods to compensate for missed contract days. Also, ala carte pricing allows for activities that forward the effort but represent a lower cost on those days.

As fuel prices and consumer costs continue to be erratic, costs may change before a contract is executed.

Lead Master Falconer \$1000 - \$1200/day

For 30 flight days over 60 - \$1200/day

For 45 flight days over 60 - \$1100/day

For over 60 flight days - \$1000/day

Secondary Falconer \$700/day. Not generally necessary for the entire term of the contract. 50-75% of the contract days should suffice. Only applies to very large projects with multiple foraging zones.

Acclimation Days priced at **\$500/day** - puts target birds on notice and familiarizes falcons with the location.

Hacking Days priced at **\$400/day** – newly fledged birds provide all day coverage with few falconer labor hours. *This must be arranged in advance to guarantee the availability of young birds.*

Pyro Hazing \$50/day for consumables

Boat Hazing \$1300/day – will be captained by a falconer and will be available extended hours equivalent to the falconer's work day. As permissible, the boat will be moored on or near project and will be deployed for active hazing as needed and will be available for the entire duration of falconer shifts.

Jet Ski Hazing \$500/day –As permissible, a jet ski will be moored on or near project and will be deployed for active hazing as needed and will be available for the entire duration of falconer shifts.

A recommended contract term of 2 plus years takes advantage of the familiarity, institutional and situational knowledge gained by falconer and falcons.





A COMPLETE SOLUTION: *Our team possess diverse skills and licenses to resolve wildlife conflicts*

Wildlife Control Operator services are available to trap and/or shoot nuisance mammalian species and secondary avian species, such as pigeons and starlings.

On projects where **Lethal Take** is approved, our team is comprised of licensed, extremely experienced and highly qualified trappers and shooters to satisfy that need.

These services are dependent on appropriate licenses and permissions from USFWS and other stakeholder agencies and individuals. We will work with contracting agencies to verify and acquire permits as necessary.

Costs to be determined based on the scope and scale.

As the avian battle is fought on many fronts, **Bird Exclusion and Deterrent Products** may deny resting and perching opportunities and support falconry efforts when falcons are not present. We are certified sellers and installers of some innovative products.

Our Avian Shock Track is a low-profile electrified track applied to flat perching surfaces which delivers a harmless but uncomfortable shock similar to a livestock fence or a dog training collar. The system can be powered by a solar unit so does not need to be located near a power source. A product that delivers consequence to the bird, not a bluff. We can sample a number of products on project to determine their efficacy.

To further offer no safe harbor, **RC Boat and Aircraft** can play a role. We are exploring the permissibility of the use of a 3D printed bald eagle RC aircraft and large RC boat and are working with agency security to approve each component and software. **\$1000 Annually.**

Public Relations, Press and Community Outreach are important tools in supporting the sustainable and ecological approach of falconry abatement. We will do a town hall, school outreach or presser at no cost to educate and gain community support. **\$0**





SKY GUARDIAN

FALCONRY ABATEMENT & BIRD REMOVAL
ODFW LICENSED WILDLIFE CONTROL OPERATOR

503.969.6119

www.SkyGuardianFalconry.com



CAPABILITIES STATEMENT

Sky Guardian, LLC, falconry-based nuisance bird abatement professionals, serve the Pacific Northwest with decades of experience. Anytime, anywhere nuisance birds are found - we offer a solution. With creativity, tenacity and adaptability as our forte, we are confident in our ability to resolve any problem presented.



CORE CAPABILITIES

Experienced Master Level Falconers
Successfully employing Falconry Based Avian Abatement in complex environments
Wildlife Control Operator licenses allow us to employ industry standard and unique strategies to deter wildlife to compliment the falconry
Extensive experience using nets and traps in large, busy enterprises as well as installation of exclusion products
Under our USFWS propagation license, we can breed falcons dedicated to specific contracts



LICENSES/ CERTIFICATIONS HELD

ODFW Master Falconer
ODFW Wildlife Control Operator
USFWS Migratory Bird Special Purpose: Abatement
USFWS Migratory Bird Special Purpose: Propagation
USFWS Migratory Bird Special Purpose: Education
USFWS Migratory Bird Special Purpose: Salvage
USFWS Migratory Bird Special Purpose: Specimen
FAA Approved Wildlife Hazard Management Training



PAST CLIENTS

Among our clients for whom we have resolved nuisance birds:
US Army Corps of Engineers, Amazon, UPS, Walmart, Lowes, Safeway, Fred Meyer as well as for numerous commercial agricultural and industrial clients.
References available upon request.



CORPORATE DATA

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PAYMENT: Accept Credit Cards



DIFFERENTIATORS

Team of 25 raptors. A variety of species of hawk and falcon offer variably of flight styles and specialties which allow us to apply the correct "tool" for every circumstance
Force Multipliers - Highly trained dogs and pyrotechnics working with the raptors multiply the effectiveness; RC
Our strategy of "hacking" young falcons on contract site builds a specialized predator from the ground up. Raising them on site gives them the home court advantage of learning the winds and the environment
Extensive Media, Public Relations and Educational Experience encourages public support, conveying the humane and sustainable nature of this approach
Competency in operating marine craft in a variety of demanding situations
With the most current GPS and radio telemetry technology, we constantly track our birds in real-time