Vertebrate Management

Pecan IPM Toolbox
Crows, blue jays and squirrels can cause severe losses to pecan crops.

Heavy losses are most often recorded when pecan crops are short and feeding becomes localized due to food availability.

Prevention of losses depends largely on early detection and initiation of control measures.

Once feeding patterns become well established, they are difficult to change.

Control measures must be persistent and varied regularly to be effective.

All the animals that cause pecan losses are protected by various state and federal laws.

Before beginning control measures, the local Game Warden should be consulted.
Feeding Habits

- Crows and blue jays behave differently, but frightening efforts affect them the same way.
- While crows may feed on pecans of any size, blue jays are normally restricted to the smaller varieties.
- Orchard location affects the amount of predation experienced each year.
- Orchards that are located adjacent to existing stands of trees will experience greater losses to all predators, due to the proximity of native cover.
Crows and Blue Jays

Chemical Control

- Avitrol® is the only registered chemical available for use in this type situation.
- It is restricted for use by, or under, the supervision of government agencies or licensed pesticide applicators.
- Avitrol is designed to affect only a small number of the birds present.
- The affected birds produce distress cries and very erratic behavior, which scares the remainder of the flock from the area.
- This chemical may be effective in some areas.
Persistence is the Key

- Effective control measures require early detection of losses and establishment of an aggressive control program.
- The control program should include a combination of the previously mentioned devices.
- Efforts must be persistent and the noise-producing devices must be relocated and/or alternated regularly to prevent conditioning of the birds.
- Stationary sound devices should be supplemented with shell crackers or noise bombs that are exploded in the air over the birds, if possible.
- Human activity in the orchard is especially important.
Bands, Artificial Snakes and Noise

- Squirrels may be excluded from trees by encircling the trees with 2-foot-wide bands of metal located six to eight feet above the ground.
- A 10-foot clearance should be maintained between trees to prevent them from jumping from tree to tree.
- In individual trees, squirrels may be repelled by locating artificial snakes along their travel routes.
- In orchards, the exploding-type noise devices used to repel birds should also help to repel squirrels.
Pyrotechnic Devices - exploding or noise-producing devices fired from specially designed pistols or shotguns.

Marshall Hyde, Inc.
Box 497
Port Huron, Michigan 48060
Phone 313/982-2140

Soneco, Inc.
Dacono, Colorado 80514
No address or phone available

Automatic Exploders - machines designed to produce loud explosions at regular intervals; operated by acetylene or propane gas.

B. M. Lawrence & Company
351 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

Alexander-Tagg Industries, Inc.
935 Jacksonville Road
Warminster, PA

Bird-X
325 West Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60610

Smith-Roles
1367 South Anna
Wichita, KS 67209
Phone 316.946.0925

Hub States Corp
2000 N. Illinois St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Avitrol - a chemical agent used to frighten birds (trade name Avitrol); used only by licensed pest control operators or government agencies

Avitrol Corp
7644 E. 46th St
Tulsa, OK 74145

Sound Devices - devices that produce sounds that repel or attract birds

Bio-Sonics Control Company
1 5259 Highway 128
Claistoga, CA 94515

Electronic Game Calls
270 W Grand Ave
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

B. M. Lawrence & Company
24 California St
San Francisco, CA 94111

Bird-K Inc.
325 W Huron St
Chicago, IL 60610

Arkansas Electronic Consultants
8000 Stanton Road
Little Rock, AR 72209

Signal Broadcast
2314 Broadway
Denver, CO 80205

AV-Alarm Corp
P. O. Box 2488
Santa Maria, CA 93454