

European Starling (Sturnus Vulgaris)



The most common and the worst nuisance bird species in North America is the European Starling. A mere 60 birds were introduced from Europe to New England in 1890 which turned into a terrible environmental disaster within a century. Their population is estimated to be between 750 million to 1 billion according to USDA. Starlings travel in flocks of thousands and pose an incredible hazard to air travel. They also cause hundreds of millions of dollars of damage to agricultural operations yearly. Being an introduced species, European starlings are exempt from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In 2008 the U.S. government poisoned, shot, or trapped 1.7 million starlings, the most of any nuisance species.

It is not uncommon for a flock of 4000 Starlings to cause major loss of revenue in a large vineyard in a week's time. Starlings are also capable of decimating blueberries, cherries, other types of pitted fruit, and even apples.

Starling flocks also attract Black Birds and Cow Birds. Although they are similar in size and appearance, they are different species, but all three species prefer flying in large flocks to prevent predation.

This group of birds as a whole is commonly referred to as "Black Birds". These species also roost and eat grains at stock lots where their droppings are a health hazard to livestock and humans alike.

Starlings cause over \$1 billion of annual damage to the agricultural industry alone. Our trained falcons are capable of managing thousands of starlings while they travel in large flocks. Modifying nuisance bird behavior with the aid of our experienced Falcons is crucial to controlling these large flocks.