

Good measurement leads to better bird management



John Muehlebach

Vigilance Technologies Pty Ltd
PO Box 1056
Warwick, Queensland 4370

New bird detection systems from Vigilance Technologies now contain integral data loggers. Bird activity in the vineyard can be factually recorded and performance of the system maximised.

The most common failing of bird repellent systems is the ability of birds to adapt and develop immunity. Deterrents therefore cannot be used indiscriminately or without monitoring the effects.

Figure 1 shows one day of bird activity in a vineyard shortly after deterrents were switched on. The graph indicates that deterrents are having a major effect. Afternoon activity is much lower than the morning activity levels and birds are acting in tighter groups.

For a psychological bird barrier to be effective, reward and

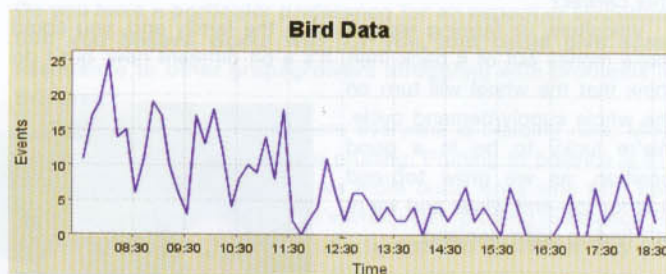


Fig. 1. Measurements of bird activity in a vineyard shortly after deterrents were switched on.

punishment must effectively be linked to behaviour, hence the value of the radar. It has been found, however, that attempting to deter every bird entering a vineyard (zero tolerance) reduces the system's long-term effectiveness. The level of bird activity at which deterrents will be activated, called the activity threshold, can be set at the radar. Feedback from the logger can assist the grower in deciding at which point the activity threshold should be set.

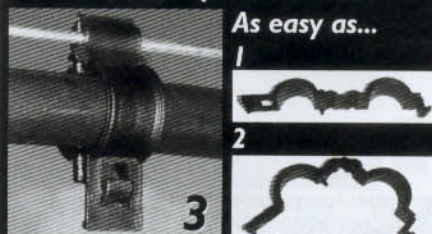
As well as the full graphical analysis of bird activity, a summary of bird activity in the vineyard is available at the local LCD display. This allows quick decisions to be made without considering the detail.

The data logger has sufficient memory to record up to two weeks of detailed data and up to two months of daily bird activity totals. Costs are largely dependent on the bird pressure and to a lesser extent on the area. Smaller vineyards can often be completely wiped out by birds whereas a large vineyard in the same area may only lose sections of the crop. As a rule of thumb a BirdDeter system on a typical 50-acre vineyard would cost approximately \$400 per acre.

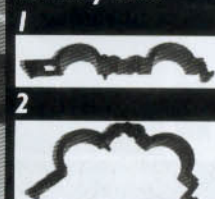
For more information or site assessment contact Vigilance Technologies Pty Ltd on (07) 4667 0491 or email john@birddeter.com.au

IRRI-Clip Irrigation Clip *NEW*

Holds dripline to wire



As easy as...



Holds all dripline and feeder pipe sizes
Fastest Fixing of dripline you'll ever see!
For use on 2.5 and all usual size HT Galv Wire.

Enquiries and local distributors contact
SUNGOLD DISTRIBUTORS

PHONE: 02 4367 6316 FAX: 02 4367 0153
EMAIL: sungold@acay.com.au
WEBSITE: www.sungold.com

PROTECAP POST CAPS

PREVENT YOUR
BIRD NETTING
FROM SNAGGING
AND TEARING
WITH PROTECAP
POST CAPS.



Cap off your trellis posts with **PROTECAP™** post caps and protect your valuable bird netting from being damaged.

PROTECAP™ Steel and timber post caps were designed by viticulturists and made in Western Australia from tough, UV stable virgin polypropylene. Steel post caps are suitable for most steel trellis posts including the popular "Gripfast" and "Vinstake". Post caps are available in quantities to suite your individual vineyard and can be freighted to all capital cities.

For further information contact - Australia Wide:
COWARAMUP AGENCIES
Bussell Highway Cowaramup WA 6284
Tel: (08) 9755 5279 Fax: (08) 9755 5404
Email: Neil@cowag.com.au
Also available through:
Polyfabz Australia Vic: (03) 9532 3011
PROTECAP IS A REG. TRADEMARK. DES. REG. NO. 136073.135243

**Cowaramup
Agencies**

