

## Status report on nuisance bird control issues

Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center  
Due December 1, 2023  
Submitted November 30, 2023



### Observed Bird Populations

Landfill staff has completed Landfill Bird Survey Forms on a regular basis. Nineteen total surveys were completed by four landfill staff since September 1, 2023. Staff reported few birds until late September, when large numbers (200-2,000) of starlings were documented on a regular basis. A smaller number of gulls (20-200) were noted until mid-November, when their populations also increased (200-2,000).

- Note the increase in starlings occurred earlier than last year when large numbers were observed in mid-October.

### Actions

- Bird surveys were performed in September through late November, as noted above.
- Landfill staff dirted, sprayed or tarped trash daily, as required by our permit.
- Staff has regularly utilized Odor Sergeant, the grape-scented spray cover additive.
- A contract with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is now in effect to provide lethal control. One bird trap was placed into service on Monday, November 27. Several more are anticipated to be placed in early December.



- Non-lethal bait is placed in the trap and starlings are live-trapped. The intent is to trap birds and then feed the birds lethal bait while contained. This will contain the birds in the trap rather than allow them to return to local nesting areas and expire off landfill property.
- As of this report, birds are getting comfortable with the trap and are around or on it with regular frequency, though few have entered the trap at this time.


### Other Items of Note

- None at this time.

### Next Steps

- Staff will continue to utilize Odor Sergeant additive and the hand-held laser to deter birds as needed.
- The City will continue to work with APHIS for lethal control over winter and early spring 2024 based on APHIS's recommendations. Any changes to approach or tactics and their results will be noted in future reports.
- The City next quarterly update to IDNR will be provided by March 1, 2024.

Prepared by Jennifer Jordan, Resource Management Superintendent

 11-30-23