

## Status report on nuisance bird control issues

Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center  
Due June 1, 2024  
Submitted May 31, 2024



### Observed Bird Populations

Nineteen Landfill Bird Survey Forms were completed by four landfill staff since March 1, 2023. Staff reported large bird populations in March, dwindling late in March and early April and by mid-April, very few birds were reported.

- Large numbers of starlings (>2,000) were documented throughout March on dirtied areas, tarped areas, and sprayed areas. By late March, starlings were documented to number between 200 and 2,000. By mid-April, few starlings were documented with the exception of two days in May (13 and 17) when between 200 and 2,000 were documented.
- Gulls were noted in smaller numbers (20-200) regularly in March and April.

### Actions

- Bird surveys were performed in March through May, as noted above.
- Landfill staff dirtied, sprayed or tarped trash daily, as required by our permit.
- Staff has regularly utilized Odor Sergeant, the grape-scented spray cover additive.
- Landfill staff did not utilize the bird noise maker in this reporting period.
- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has provided lethal control for starlings via one bird trap regularly since the trap was first placed on Monday, November 27.
  - The trap was used regularly through March.
  - APHIS staff estimates that about 5,000 birds were culled since November 2023.
  - APHIS and the City will be continuing this process late this fall and into spring 2025.

### Other Items of Note

- No complaints have been received from neighbors.

### Next Steps

- Staff will continue to utilize Odor Sergeant additive, the noise maker, and the hand-held laser to deter birds as needed.
- The City will continue to work with APHIS for lethal control in fall 2024 and spring 2025 based on APHIS's recommendations. Any changes to approach or tactics and their results will be noted in future reports.
- The City will provide the next quarterly update to IDNR will be provided by September 1, 2024.

Prepared by Jennifer Jordan, Resource Management Superintendent

