

Hi Russell,

Christchurch Airport has now had experience with three different Lasers for bird control. The BirdEraser model performs the best. On normal sunny days you can expect it to be effective well in excess of 200 metres and on dull days out to 500 metres plus. This makes it a great tool to use when it is either unsafe to shoot using our .17 rifle, or the birds are outside its effective range (approx. 200 metres).

The Laser is very simple and easy to use. The best technique is to start with the laser in front of the birds that are to be dispersed. You then bring the laser onto the birds and if necessary move it from left to right amongst the flock.

We did trial on birds flying. This was carried out when there was no aircraft flying due to low visibility. (Fog) The range at the time was approximately 100 metres. Both feral pigeons and Canadian geese were turned and dispersed in mid-flight. The effect was both dramatic and unexpected. I cannot stress enough that a laser should never be used in this fashion without express permission from Air Traffic Control. As can be seen from the photos provided, birds act very agitated when the laser is used. This is apparent both when on the ground and again when they take flight. It is difficult to explain but pigeons in particular seem to fly in a much jerkier motion than normal.

The only real advantage of having the scope is it gives you the ability to identify both the species and number of birds at the longer ranges. It also allows you to line up the target before triggering the laser beam.

We were fortunate enough to try it on a number of bird species. These were:-

Plovers	Very effective
Magpies	Very effective
Feral Pigeons	Very effective
Starlings	Very effective
Sparrows	Very effective
Quail	Effective
Pukeko	Effective
Paradise Duck	Very effective
Black Backed Gulls	Very effective
Harrier Hawks	Marginally effective

As can be seen from above it had very little effect on Harrier Hawks. I would suspect this would be the same for other Raptors.

I believe we achieved approximately 2 hours use before we had to change the battery. Changing the battery is easy. From a safety point of view, I believe the main point is to treat the laser as you would a firearm. It also needs to be pointed out that NZ C.A.A approval needs to be given to use this Laser on NZ Airports. Unfortunately I believe one incident involving safety could result in this authority being revoked. Strict Controls need to be in place to avoid this. I believe the BirdEraser Laser performs better than the overseas models that I have trialled and would recommend it. It is not the "be all" and "end all" but used in conjunction with other tools available for bird dispersals would prove invaluable. We have not had the opportunity to see if birds become accustomed to it and then fail to see it as a threat, but this has not happened with our present laser.

Once these Lasers are in production we will be purchasing one. Thank you for the chance to trial it.

Cheers Norm.

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