

# **New Weapon to Deter Falcon Attacks**

**By Paul Gibbs**

Technology can be a wonderful thing, although I must admit that I am not a “Techno Kid” and find it hard to keep up with all the modern and ever increasing gadgets and games that are available, and being a “Baby Boomer” doesn’t help either, as I often think what use and what a waste of time some of these things are. Never the less, some things I do find useful and probably many others are as well, but for some reason I don’t seem able to get my head around them.

Well back to the topic at hand, all raptors as we know are protected by law and there have been many attempts to develop non-harmful deterrents which have had only minor or short term results, i.e. “Terror Eye” transfers to stick on the pigeons wings and “Bali Bells and Whistles” that can be attached to the pigeons tail, all seem to work for a short time but at the moment I know of no one that uses them any more.

Well the latest craze among many people is flying radio control “Drones”, helicopter type hover craft that can gain altitude very quickly along with flying in various directions at very fast speeds.

I’ve watched several people using them both in their backyards and in public parks and they are quite impressive. Such is their popularity and versatility; organizations such as the police, fire brigade, real-estate agents, and councils along with many others have adopted them as an indispensable tool.

I have watch hobbyist in parks operating them, undertaking several looking complicated manoeuvres. On “Surfing the Net” I found that they are not that complicate to “fly” and one could become quite apt at operating one with a little practice. They vary in cost depending on exactly what you want them do along with how high, how fast and what range you want it to be able to travel while having total control.

What a weapon that pigeon fanciers can now utilise against “Falcon Strikes” having one in the backyard, or if your lucky enough to live on a large property and having a “Drone” at the ready, you would be able to frighten the life out of the Peregrines by attacking it the way it attacks your birds. I would imagine that after having a “Drone” chase it several times it would stay clear of your birds for some time.

Ah, this is a true use for technology, even though the manufactures never thought that it could be used for this purpose.

A suitable quote to conclude this short article with is - ***“Fixity of purpose calls for flexibility of method.”***