

Test methods for bird protection

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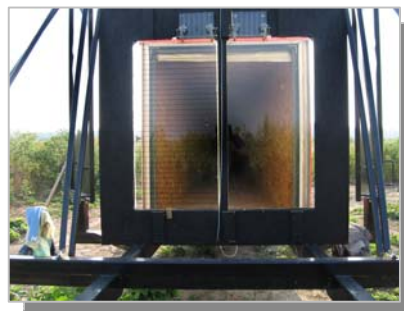
Method Hohenau



Since 2004 in a special field laboratory, the Biological Station Hohenau-Ringelsdorf has been researching the effectiveness of different markings on glass. Currently Flight tunnel II, a development of an earlier flight tunnel, is in use. An additional and identical test tunnel will be built in the USA following the Austrian example. In this tunnel choice experiments will be carried out

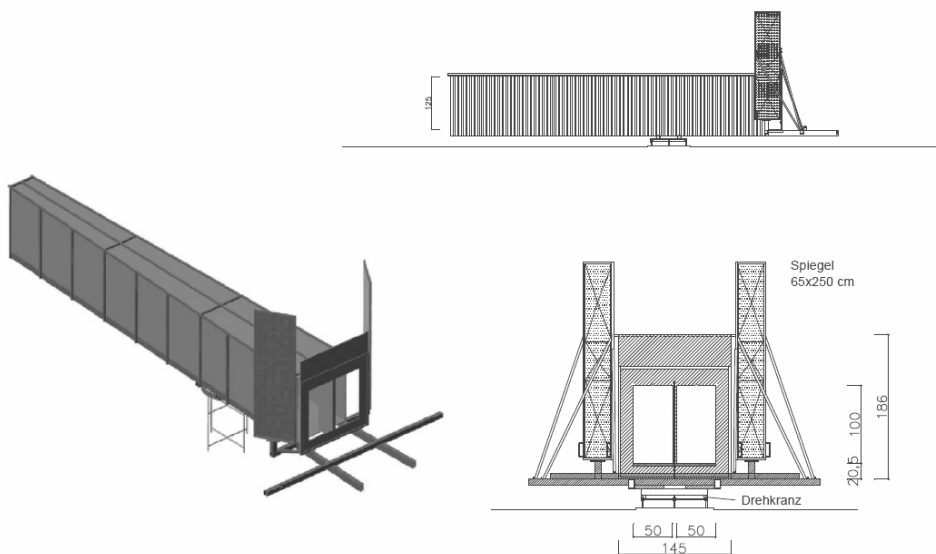
– from the choice of their flight path, birds signal whether they perceive certain markings or not. The test tunnel can be rotated and follows the path of the sun.

This makes it possible for natural sunlight to be mirrored symmetrically on two sheets of glass – one marked and the other not.




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Flight tunnel II



With ineffective markings, the birds fly towards the marked glass just as frequently as toward the unmarked „Reference sheet“. The better perceivable the glass marking is, the more obvious is the tendency for the birds to fly towards the unmarked glass sheet. The birds that fly out of the dark tunnel, fly at a high speed toward the glass sheets. Just before impact, the bird is caught in a net which is not visible to them and set free.

To deliver statistical data whether particular markings are even perceived, marginal effects achieved or particularly effective impact avoidance occurs, there are over 40 species of wild birds - from robins to spotted woodpeckers – that are sent through

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the Hohenauer Tunnel. For each marking it is necessary to research a large number of tests in order to obtain representative, reproducible results under differing light conditions. In order to avoid learning effects, a bird is only sent through the tunnel once. The tests are captured on video. After analysing and evaluating the results, some very clear distinguishable acceptibilities of markings become apparent. Only those products tested where less than 10% of the birds flew towards are recommended for market.

With ever-increasing threats and more frequent danger sources, the best product is just about good enough.