

Keeping Pests Away from Equipment

This document provides a compilation of customer-supplied methods that have successfully kept pests away from Campbell Scientific equipment in the field. Also provided is a list of companies that supply animal control products. Campbell Scientific does not endorse any particular method or company.

Insects

- › Apply petroleum jelly on the enclosure gasket to discourage ants and other insects from chewing on the gasket.
- › Place moth balls or crystals in enclosures to prevent fire ants, wasps, spiders and other insects from nesting.

CAUTION: The fumes of moth balls or crystals could be hazardous. Therefore, enclosures that contain moth balls or crystals should be opened in a well-ventilated area.

- › Put animal ear tags in the enclosure. Some ear tags are treated with an insecticide; talk with personnel in an agricultural store to determine the best ear tag for controlling the pest in your area. This technique originated in southern Texas.

Birds

- › Twist cable ties (such as those supplied with Campbell Scientific tripods and towers) along the fuselage of a wind monitor to prevent birds from landing on the sensor. Point the free ends up.
- › Strap a strip of bird control wire around the funnel of a tipping bucket using a pipe clamp so that the needles extend up beyond the funnel. See Suppliers of Animal-Control Products section at the end of this document.
- › Use a crossarm as a perch for birds to sit on. Mount the crossarm higher than the wind sensors, but not directly above other equipment.
- › Stretch fishing line across the top of the bird landing zone. Place the fishing line 5 to 8 cm (2 to 3 in) above the equipment.
- › Install a visual deterrent, such as realistic looking owl. Mount the owl so that it swings to prevent the birds from becoming acclimated to it. Companies listed in the Suppliers of Animal-Control Products section provide a wide variety of visual deterrents.

Rodents

- › Place moth balls or crystals along the cables to prevent rabbits or other rodents from chewing on cables.
- › Route cables through flexible metal or plastic conduit to isolate sensor cables from the environment and secure the ends with heat shrink.
- › Run cables through PVC pipes that terminate in rodent free areas.
- › Wearing gloves, wipe cables or flexible conduit with a thick cloth soaked in rubbing alcohol or deer/rodent repellent. If protecting the cables in PVC pipes, wipe the cable as you feed it into the PVC pipe and wipe the PVC pipe with the alcohol or repellent as well.

NOTE: Flexible metal and plastic conduit and PVC pipes are available from electrical supply stores.

Cows and Other Large Animals

- › Enclose equipment in barbed wire fences.
- › Stack large diameter concrete pipes on end and place equipment inside.

Vandals

- › Camouflage the station.
- › Disguise enclosure boxes to look like rocks or unimportant objects such as old coolers.
- › Put warning stickers on enclosures.

Suppliers of Animal-Control Products

- › **Nixalite**—Specializes in bird control wires, but also has bird netting, visual deterrents, and repellents. Website: www.nixalite.com
- › **BirdX**—Products include ultrasonic bird repellents and repellents. Website: <https://bird-x.com>
- › **Margo's Supplies LTD**—Specializes in sound deterrents. Website: www.margosupplies.com
- › **Critter Control**—Products include repellents, flexible electrical tracks, bird control wires, electric fences. Website: www.crittercontrol.com
- › **Bird-B-Gone**—Offers humane bird deterrents such as netting, visual deterrents, and repellents. Website: www.birdbgone.com



Figure 1. Station is camouflaged to prevent human pests from damaging it.