

A large flock of blackbirds is shown in flight over a field of rice. The birds are densely packed in the upper half of the image, appearing as a dark, textured mass against the lighter sky. The rice field below is a mix of green and brown, suggesting a late harvest or a specific variety of rice. The overall scene is dynamic and captures a natural avian behavior.

**Avian use of rice-baited trays
attached to cages with live decoy
blackbirds in central North Dakota:
Research Update**

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Outline

- Introduction
- Non-target issue
- Fall 2007 research
- Preliminary results
- After the research

Introduction

- Traps
 - 4'x4'x6' - Side by side and “L” shape
 - Tray
 - Decoys
 - Drop Box



Sites

- Jamestown and Wimbledon
- Sunflower/Corn
- Slough/Cattail
- Blackbirds > 5,000



2008 Site Map



Legend

- ND Cities
- ND Interstates
- Major Roads
- ▲ Wimbledon Sites
- ▲ Jamestown Sites



Protocol

- Rice
 - Placed on trays & roads
- Decoys
 - Numbers
- Placement
 - Away from habitat



Non-targets

- Concerns
 - Species
 - Sparrows
- DRC-1339 Label
 - Registered in ND
 - Zero tolerance



2007 Research

- Roost size
- Trap configuration
- Avian issues
- Mammals



2007 Research

- Electric Fence
 - All sites
- Tray Orientation
 - 4 ft height
- Modify Capture Technique
 - Side by side
- Site Preparation
 - Vegetation
- Monitoring



2008 Modifications

- Electric fence
- Site Selection
- Blackbirds without non-targets

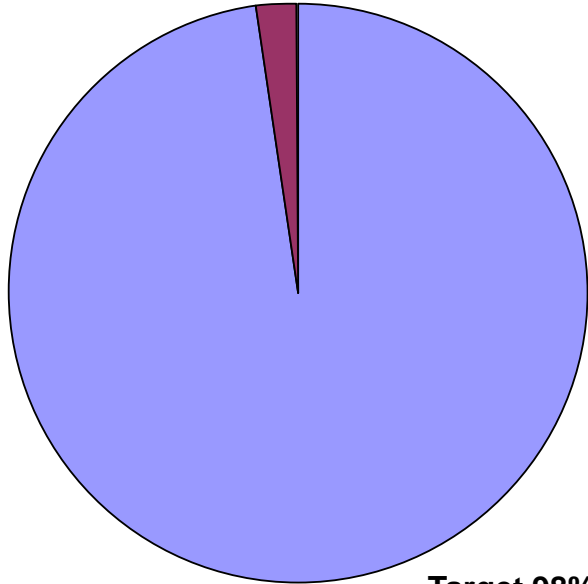


Preliminary Results

Tray Visits

Target vs. Non-target Tray Use

Non-Target 2%



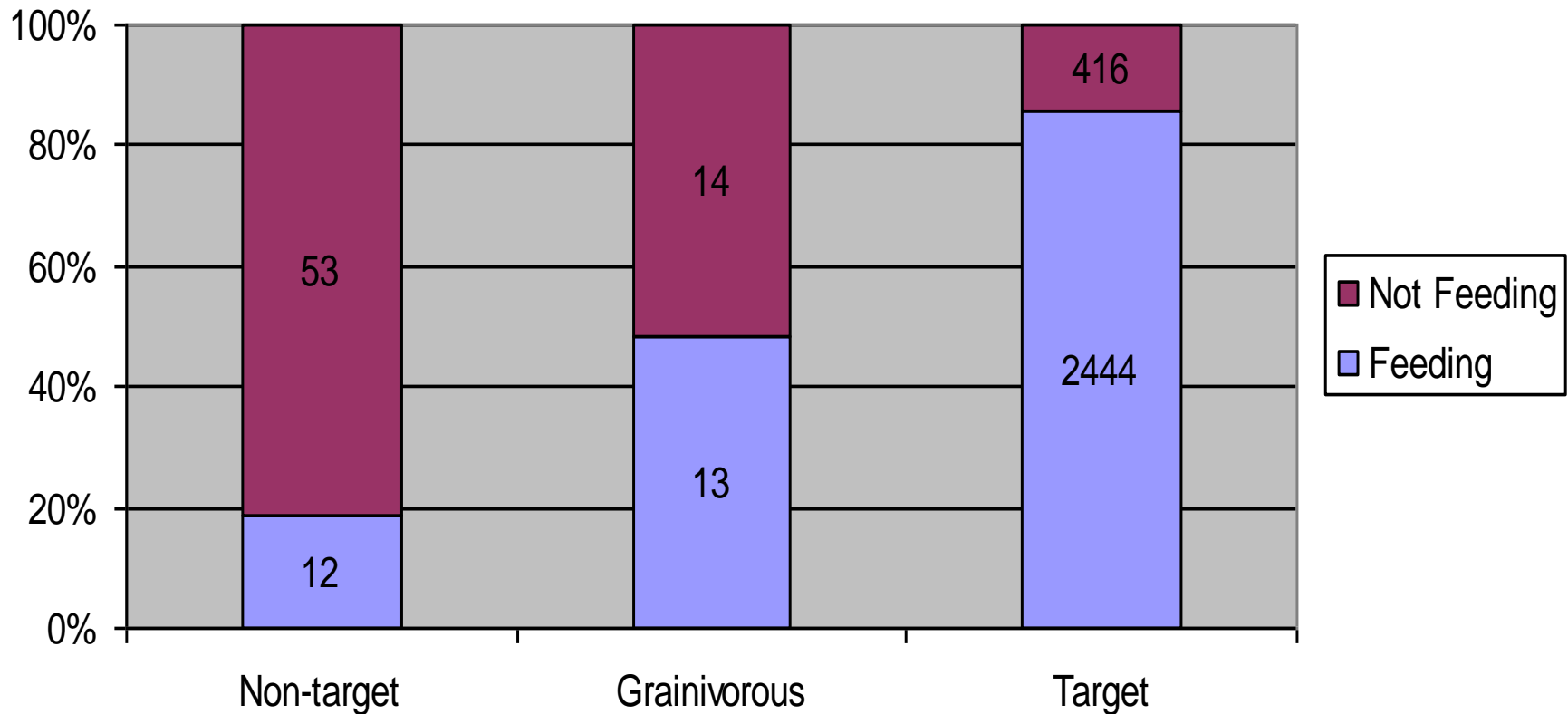
Target 98%

Feeding Blackbirds



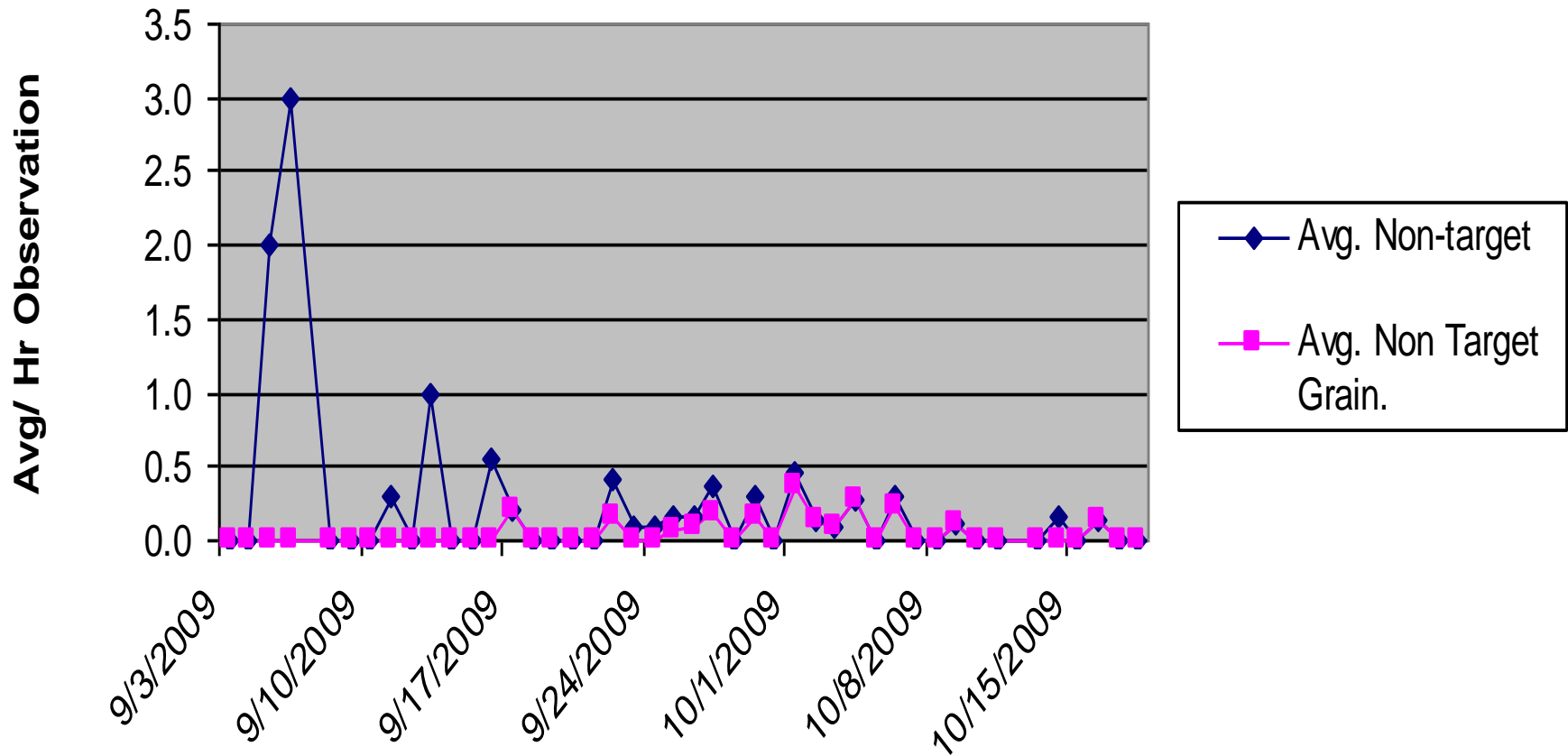
Comparison of Blackbird and Non-Target Tray Use

Comparison of Target and Non-target Feeding at Trays



Timing of Visits

Comparison of All Non-Targets To Granivorous Non-Targets



After The Research

- Large roosts/trees
- Cost Efficiency
- Isolated circumstances
- Large cage design
- Corn



Acknowledgements

- North Dakota Crop Protection Product Harmonization and Registration Board
- NDSU – Department of Biological Sciences
- USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
- Dr. George Linz
- Dr. William Bleier
- Field Assistants
- Mike Clemens
- Phil Mastrangelo

Thank You!

