

Study tour E011

SID: 2050507

2023-04-01

Link

<https://earth.google.com/earth/d/1x9tUInzkKxO3WleaMHIMv31jXNK72c6L?usp=sharing>

Minimising bird collisions with wind turbines

Wind power is an essential part of efforts to reduce reliance on fossil fuels to tackle climate change. However, the growth in size of wind turbines and scale of windfarms poses collision risks for birds, especially seabirds offshore and raptors on shore. It is thought that birds find it hard to see moving turbines. Researchers in Norway tested whether passive visual cues would make turbine motion more visible by painting one of the turbines black. They found that annual mortality was reduced by 70% compared to unpainted nearby control areas.

May et al. (2020)

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May, Roel, Torgeir Nygård, Ulla Falkdalen, Jens Åström, Øyvind Hamre, and Bård G. Stokke. 2020. "Paint It Black: Efficacy of Increased Wind Turbine Rotor Blade Visibility to Reduce Avian Fatalities." *Ecology and Evolution* 10 (16): 8927–35. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.6592>.