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Crop damage by birds has been studied (1,2,3,4) but no attempt had been made to quantify losses. The 'potential Loss' and 'Actual Loss' for paddy at Polonnaruwa were estimated by a simplified model of that proposed by Wiens & Dyer⁵. The Potential Loss was estimated to be 17.5% and 14.1% of the yield hectare⁻¹ for the Maha season of 1979/80 and Yala season of 1980 respectively. However, the Actual Loss was found to range between 0.03-0.04% of the yield hectare⁻¹, during the seasons under review. This indicates that the method of chasing birds from the field during its various stages of growth is effective, in keeping the damage down.

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