

Intelligent IoT-Enabled Crop Defense System for Preventing Animal and Bird Intrusion

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ABSTRACT

Animal and bird intrusions in modern agricultural fields are persistent problems that may cause serious damage to crops and financial loss. AI-powered intelligent surveillance systems are imbued with the power of machine learning for effective and reliable solutions. Based on this, this paper proposes a real-time wildlife detection and monitoring system that will help farmers in effectively and efficiently detecting and handling intruding animals and birds. The YOLOv8 algorithm, which is a high-end deep learning framework for fast and accurate object detection, is used to implement the proposed system. A camera captures continuous images of the farm environment, then pre-processing of the images using OpenCV could be done, including noise reduction, resizing, and normalization, for increased accuracy in object detection. After detection, the images are sent to the remote server and deleted automatically after processing to save storage. Other steps necessary to provide real-time efficient performances are dimensionality reduction, feature extraction, and image compression. After detecting the intrusion, multiple automated responses from the system include sending an email to the farmer with a detected species and timestamp, switching the buzzer on for immediate notification, and showing the detection details on the LCD display. When nighttime falls, LED floodlights automatically turn on to improve visibility and keep nighttime wildlife away. Continuous improvement of the YOLOv8 model will enable it to recognize a wide range of species, and with changing environmental conditions, update its model accordingly.

Keywords: AI in Agriculture, YOLO V8, Animal Detection, Real-Time Surveillance, Smart Farming, Intrusion Detection.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture, though a vital part of food security worldwide, faces many challenges related to the protection of crops and yield management. Among those, animal and bird intrusions are some of the most damaging and hardest to control. Wild boars, cattle, monkeys, deer, and several types of birds create entry into farmlands, causing severe destruction at various growth stages of crops. Traditional methods involving fencing, scarecrows, manual patrolling, or chemical deterrents have often yielded limited success, apart from being labor-intensive with no real-time effectiveness. Of course, IoT solutions designed with the express purpose of preventing animal intrusions have also been explored. This IoT-based framework in [2.1] discusses the ways in which sensors, cameras, and machine learning models detect crop diseases and pest activities well in advance before they cause severe damage to the crops.

The farmers can take the necessary prevention measures on time through the analysis of real-time data and environmental patterns, reinforcing the role of automated monitoring in agriculture. In contrast to manual monitoring, protection by automated alarms or deterrent sound waves is triggered instantly upon detection. This essentially evidences the growing need for real-time intelligent intrusion detection technologies.

Energy-efficient and sustainable monitoring strategies further enhance the practicality of smart agricultural systems. This study, as outlined in [2.3], introduces a model based on federated learning, which decreases the costs regarding data transmission while ameliorating energy efficiency in smart farming applications. Such

decentralization allows continuous and scalable monitoring to support the long-term adoption of smart surveillance systems in agricultural environments.

Deep learning has also become an integral part of agricultural monitoring. The MobileNet SSD-based detection system in [2.4] shows how effective, lightweight machine learning models can identify animals and automatically trigger scaring mechanisms with low computational resources. However, these methods have generally presented poor performance concerning the detection of small or fast-moving species, like birds, calling for more advanced and accurate detection models.

Similarly, technologies used for the detection of pests are evolving continuously. The IoT device-based automated threshold system using image processing and machine learning in [2.5] turns on control measures against pests only when thresholds are crossed. This reduces unnecessary application of pesticides and is thus in line with sustainable crop protection. These results highlight the role of intelligent, automated systems in threat detection for modern agriculture.

Building upon the insights from [2.1]–[2.5], this research proposes a comprehensive real-time animal and bird detection system using the advanced YOLOv8 algorithm. YOLOv8 offers improved detection accuracy, faster processing, and reliable performance under diverse lighting and environmental conditions. The system integrates OpenCV preprocessing, LCD notifications, buzzer activation, LED illumination for night operation, and instant email alerts to deliver a fully automated farm protection solution. By combining AI-driven detection with real-time automated responses, this system overcomes the limitations of previous research and provides farmers with a robust method for mitigating wildlife intrusions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The integration of AI-driven detection techniques with immediate automated alerts overcomes pitfalls in prior research and provides farmers with a better approach to minimizing intrusions by wildlife.

Title: IoT-Based System of Prevention and Control for Crop Diseases and Insect Pests

Author: Zhibin Wang, Xiaojun Qiao, Ying Wang, Hao Yu, Cuixia Mu

Year: 2024

Description: IoT-Based System for Prevention and Control of Crop Diseases and Insect Pests follows advanced technologies in effectively monitoring and managing agricultural health. It deploys sensors, cameras, and smart devices over the agricultural field to track very early symptoms of disease and pest outbreaks. It identifies, from real-time data received from IoT sensors, the favourable environmental conditions for the spread of the disease, tracks pest movement, and monitors crop health. Further, this gathered data is analyzed with the help of machine learning algorithms in order to forecast outbreaks that could be realized and suggest possible measures. The system can automatically trigger a response to such situations by activating a pest control mechanism or adjusting environmental conditions for reduced chemical pesticide application by promoting sustainable farming. The design supports energy efficiency, with IoT devices powered by solar, hence cutting operation costs. An IoT-based approach like this provides for timely interventions and protects the crops without yielding losses, hence supporting eco-friendly agricultural operations.

Title: Crop Protection and Monitoring from Animal Attacks Using IoT Solutions

Author: Nandhini G S, Kaviyarasu M, Saminathan K, Aakash A

Year: 2023

Description: The Crop Protection and Monitoring from Animal Attacks using IoT Solutions project is designed to develop an innovative system that integrates the use of the Internet of Things in technology for the protection of agricultural crops from intrusion by animals. It deploys sensors that include motion detectors, infrared cameras, and ultrasonic sound emitters used in tracking and detecting the presence of animals near and within

the crop fields. It involves IoT-enabled devices to track and report data in real time continuously and analyzes it to detect any possible threat due to wild boars, deer, or rodents. When an animal is detected, the system initiates deterrents in the form of sound alarms or ultrasonic waves so that there would be minimum damage to the crops. With the integration of IoT, farmers are able to monitor their fields remotely, receive instant alerts, and undertake timely action that ensures there is a reduction in the process of manual surveillance. This solution improves crop yield while ensuring sustainability and reducing energy consumption in pest control.

Title: SusFL: Energy-Aware Federated Learning-based Monitoring for Sustainable Smart Farms

Author: Dian Chen, Paul Yang, Ing-Ray Chen, Dong Sam Ha, Jin-Hee Cho

Year: 2024

Description: "SusFL: Energy-Aware Federated Learning-based Monitoring for Sustainable Smart Farms" proposes a novel approach in monitoring and managing the sustainability of smart farms with the introduction of federated learning and energy-aware techniques. It introduces SusFL, a system designed to optimize energy use in agricultural monitoring using edge devices and federated learning algorithms. Basically, its main objective is to minimize energy consumption while sustaining the efficiency of real-time monitoring of farm operations. FL can be used in conducting decentralized data processing, thus reducing the frequency of data transfers to central servers, saving bandwidth and energy. It also deploys energy-efficient protocols, adapting learning based on available resources to make such farm operations as irrigation, pest control, and crop monitoring optimal regarding sustainability. It aims at empowering smart farms with informed decisions, thereby enhancing their productivity while reducing the ecological footprint.

Title: Scarecrow Monitoring System: Employing MobileNet SSD for Enhanced Animal Supervision

Author: Balaji VS, Mahi AR, Anirudh Ganapathy PS, Manju M

Year: 2024

Description: The "Scarecrow Monitoring System: Employing MobileNet SSD for Enhanced Animal Supervision" describes a smart approach to protecting crops from animal intrusions with advanced IoT and machine learning. The proposed system employs MobileNet SSD, a lightweight CNN for detecting animals in agricultural fields. MobileNet SSD has been developed to carry out the object detection task with high accuracy using minimum computational resources; hence, it will be suitable for deployment in resource-constrained environments like farms. The deployed cameras in a scarecrow monitoring system are embedded with this technology that identifies animals-deer, wild boars, and other pests-that destroy crops. When these are detected, the proposed system will trigger deterrent responses, which may include the activation of a scarecrow or make sounds that would drive animals away. This can help protect crops better by reducing the usage of pesticides, hence minimizing environmental impacts to facilitate safe farming.

Title: "Threshold-Based Automated Pest Detection System for Sustainable Agriculture.

Author: Tianle Li, Jia Shu, Qinghong Chen, Murad Mehrab Abrar, John Raiti

Year: 2024

Description: The "Threshold-Based Automated Pest Detection System for Sustainable Agriculture" uses various advanced technologies like IoT, image processing, and machine learning in managing the infestation of pests in the field. The system functions using IoT sensors and cameras over the field to track real-time environmental data like humidity, temperature, and soil conditions-all primary parameters affecting pest activity. When the system detects that the pest activity has crossed a threshold level fixed in advance, it sends automatic alerts and deploys intervention measures, such as pest repellents or mobile application alerts to farmers. This forms the basis of ensuring that chemical pest control is resorted to only when actually required; this, in turn, avoids the excessive use of chemicals and minimizes environmental degradation. This system will contribute to achieving sustainable crop protection for farmers through timely insights based on data-driven information, optimization

of resource utilization, and reduced overall cost of maintaining pest management. The integration of automation and precision agriculture into this system will help in improving productivity and promoting eco-friendly farming methods.

METHODOLOGY

It is proposed that the Real Time Animal and Bird Detection System be designed in a modular approach to be efficient, scalable, and adaptable for different agricultural scenarios. This comprises a methodology of six major modules, each responsible for a critical stage of the workflow involved in this process of detection and alert. All of this works together to automatically watch over your crops, spot any intruders, and step in before wildlife can cause trouble.

1. Image Acquisition Module

The system initiates with continuous image capture with the Python-enabled camera module. The camera is specifically positioned to have a wide field of view, hence enabling it to capture the maximum area of the farmland. It is able to function effectively against a wide range of environmental conditions, such as direct sunlight, cloudy and low light conditions. Besides this, the system allows for night-time surveillance too with its LED floodlights that come on automatically, the moment the ambient light falls below a threshold value. This allows maintaining sufficient visibility for correct identification even in the event of a night-time intrusion.

Frame acquisition operates at a variable rate, in which there can be a tradeoff between real-time responsiveness and computational efficiency. Lower frame rates reduce the processing load, and higher frame rates allow for improved detection in fast-moving birds or animals. Right after the images are captured, they go straight into the next step for preprocessing.

2. Image Pre-Processing Module

We use OpenCV to enhance and change the photos we take, working through each step as we go. First, we run a few pre-processing tricks to clean up the images and get them looking sharp. That way, when we hand them over to the YOLO V8 model, it gets clean, high-quality data—and the detection works just the way it should. Key operations include:

Noise reduction: It should remove all kinds of artifacts generated by environmental causes such as dust, low light, or camera sensor noise.

- Resizing images to the input dimension requirements of the model, YOLO V8, hence reducing computational complexity.
- Normalization normalizes the value of pixel intensities for better consistency to improve the model's performance.

The techniques for contrast enhancement, like histogram equalization, make the features of an object more distinguishable. Besides, further advanced methods such as dimensionality reduction and image fusion are utilized to extract necessary features without redundant data. This cuts down the amount of work the system has to do, so real-time detection gets faster. And the best part? The quality stays just as good.

3. YOLO V8 Detection Module

The pre-processed images will be fed into the YOLO V8 detection model, which mainly represents the intelligence for the whole surveillance system. In a nutshell, YOLO V8 represents the state-of-the-art deep learning algorithm that is fast and accurate with multi-object detection capabilities.

The model uses:

Advanced feature extraction to discover patterns in shape, texture, and motion.

These include multi-scale detection to identify large animals, as well as small and speedy birds.

- Bounding box regression for locating intruders accurately, and forming detection boxes around them.

YOLO V8 classifies the detected objects into different categories of animals and birds. The ability of the network to run in real time allows for an immediate reaction against any emerging threats; this fits perfectly with agricultural monitoring.

4. Alert and Notification Module

Once the system detects an intruder, it triggers the alert mechanism without wasting any time. A buzzer is used that creates a high loud sound for deterring animals and also to alert farm workers working in the surrounding area. Secondly, it also sends an email notification automatically to the farmer. The notification would display the type of intrusion, the timestamp, and the captured image, if considered necessary.

In the system, there is an LCD display that shows real-time updates; this could include a message like "Animal/Bird Detected," further adding some information related to the detection event. Via web or mobile remote interface, farmers are able to manually activate or turn off buzzers in the system.

5. IoT Communication Module

The processed images and detection data can easily be sent via ESP8266 Wi-Fi for wireless communication to any cloud server or IoT platform. This will enable farmers to monitor the conditions of their fields from a distance through either a smartphone or computer.

The uploaded data is then stored for future reference; thus, it can also serve in the historical analysis of intrusion trends, time patterns, and seasonal wildlife activities. Real-time connectivity keeps farmers updated even when away from the fields, further enhancing convenience and farm security.

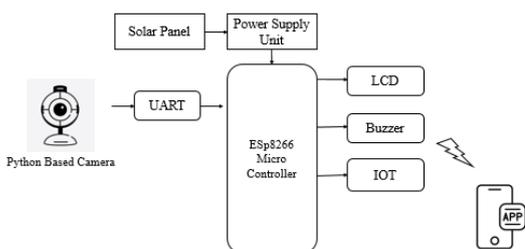
6. Adaptive Learning Module

The system embeds a module of adaptive learning for long-term efficiency. Periodical retraining of YOLO V8, with newly captured images, will enable the model to adapt to:

- Changing environmental conditions
- Seasonal changes in animal and bird behavior
- New species or unknown invaders
- Various lighting or weather conditions

Continuous learning over time reduces false positives and increases accuracy in detection. The system becomes robust enough to evolve with the changing conditions of farms and wildlife patterns.

Block Diagram Explanation:



The IoT-based real-time farm monitoring and intrusion detection system consists of a Python-based camera as one of the major sensing components. This camera sends continuous images or video of the farm environment. These frames are transmitted through the UART interface directly to the ESP8266 with UART, which ensures serial transmission of data in a very reliable way. In addition, all elements draw energy from the power supply

unit, regulated and stabilized, powered by a solar panel, enabling it to continue in operation even if placed at quite remote fields.

The ESP8266 microcontroller hosts the CPU and receives data from the camera, executes the detection logic, and controls the output devices. It updates the LCD display with warnings such as "Animal Detected" or messages regarding system status. In this case, intrusion detection triggers the buzzer to scare away animals or birds. IoT communication is facilitated through its onboard Wi-Fi. Real-time notifications or detection data are routed through this system to the mobile app of the farmer for continuous remote monitoring and timely alerts.

All in all, it incorporates AI detection with power efficiency and IoT connectivity such that crops are effectively protected with as little human intervention as possible.

Components Requirement:

1. Solar Panel

Choose a monocrystalline 20–50W 12V DC panel. They are more efficient, so you get more power out of the same sunlight. This keeps your setup running outdoors, straight from the sun.

2. Power Supply Unit

You will need a 12V/5V DC regulated supply that handles 2-5A. This box feeds power to everything: your microcontroller, camera, buzzer, LCD, the lot. It keeps the juice steady, so nothing fries or glitches out.

3. ESP8266 Microcontroller (NodeMCU)

ESP8266 operates on 3.3V logic. This is the brain behind the entire operation: it handles all Wi-Fi, IoT communication, warnings, and processing-all using 802.11 b/g/n.

4. Camera

Go for a Python-compatible camera, 5MP to 8MP, connected via USB or CSI. It should play nice with Python and OpenCV. Camera views real-time images, so the system spots animals or birds the moment they show up.

5. Buzzer 5V DC buzzer, 80–90 dB output. That is loud enough to startle any animal or bird that comes close.

6. LCD Display

Use a 16×2 or 20×4 LCD display; it's better to use I2C because it saves GPIO pins. On the display you will have information like:

- "Animal/Bird Detected"
- Time stamp
- System status

7. IoT Communication Module

The ESP8266 already handles IoT, but you'll need a cloud connection. For that you can use an MQTT server - or set up something like a webserver, Firebase, Blynk or Thingspeak. With these, you get:

- Real-time notifications
- Remote monitoring
- Intrusion logs

8. UART Communication Interface

You will use TTL-compatible UART (3.3V or 5V). The baud rate shall be set from 9600 up to 115200. Through this interface, the camera module, ESP8266, and other parts can communicate with each other.

9. LED Floodlight (Night Mode)

A 12V high-brightness LED floodlight illuminates the scene at night, so you can capture and detect images even in the dark.

10. Supporting Elements

You will require jumper wires, breadboard or PCB, and perhaps a 12V backup battery. Do not forget a camera mounting stand, an enclosure box, voltage regulators like AMS1117 (3.3V) or LM7805, and a connectors and soldering kit to pull it all together.

Structural Layout:

The system proposed for real-time detection of animals and birds will integrate sensing, processing, communication, and alert mechanisms in order to guard the agricultural fields. It is an architecture layout organized as follows:

Power Supply Unit



The whole system operates through a solar panel to sustain continuous functioning in remote farm areas. The regulated power supply provides stable voltage to the ESP8266 microcontroller, camera module, and the various output devices.

Image Acquisition Unit



A Python-based camera continuously captures images of the surrounding farm. This module acts as the main sensor for the detection of animals and birds. These image frames are transmitted to the microcontroller through a UART communication interface.

Processing and Control Unit (ESP8266 Microcontroller)



ESP8266 handles everything at the core level: fetching image data, running the detection algorithms, controlling the output devices, handling IoT communication. Just turn it on and it hooks up to the cloud right away, thanks to the built-in Wi-Fi.

Output and Alerting System



Here's what comes with this unit:

An LCD display keeps you in the loop with live updates of the detection status, system messages-the works. If something is off, the buzzer turns on with an alert so that you don't miss out on anything. It's all about keeping things secure and easy to monitor. LED floodlight if your unit is equipped with one. When an intruder tries to sneak in at night, it lights up the area.

IoT Communication Module



The ESP8266 pushes detection results and alerts straight to your phone or the cloud dashboard, so you see updates instantly. Farmers get notified instantly and can check on their crops from wherever they are. If something goes wrong, they can step in right away.

CONCLUSION

This project proposes a high-performance and multi-faceted real-time animal and bird detection system that hopes to contribute significantly to the strengthening of crop protection and improvement in farm management through intelligent surveillance. The proposed system takes advantage of an advanced deep learning algorithm, YOLO V8, combined with image preprocessing techniques based on OpenCV, in achieving the right balance between accuracy, reliability, and speed in the detection of wildlife intrusion across variable environmental conditions. Included among the major advantages of the system is its efficiency in generally challenging scenarios, including those related to poor light, which is facilitated by nighttime LED illumination. Model

capability regarding detecting large animals and smaller, fast-moving birds bolsters the farmer's capacity to deal with many of the threats commonly faced in agricultural productivity.

Integrated automated alert mechanisms ensure that warnings are issued promptly through emails, buzzer alarms, and LCD updates in case of any intrusions. This reduces manual field supervision to a greater extent, which otherwise tends to be very laborious, time-consuming, and virtually impossible for bigger farmlands. The power of IoT-enabled remote monitoring is further embodied in this system, wherein intrusion events can be tracked by farmers from any corner of the world based on cloud platforms or mobile applications. Such real-time access no doubt improves situational awareness and promptly enables farmers to make quicker and more relevant decisions.

Another significant advantage of the system is that it offers good management in terms of storage and computational resources. While the images are analyzed in real-time, they are pushed out of the local memory to prevent the aggregation of unnecessary data that reduces the speed of a system. The Adaptive Learning Module is constantly retraining the YOLO V8 model with newly captured images so as to perform better. That way, it will be able to adapt to changes in wildlife behavior, seasonal variations, and emerging threats. This helps minimize false positives and improve performance over time.

This system contributes to more sustainable farming by keeping energy use very low, and therefore it should actually fit well into remote rural areas with poor access to electricity. In this way, it reduces crop losses, the burden of manual labour also decreases, and running costs are kept low, making it a practical and affordable choice for farmers.

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