

29th July 1975

Current Activity Concerning  
the U.S. Bird/Plane Strike Problem  
by  
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Thank you Mr. Chairman

My purpose today is to review very briefly programs in the United States that are concerned with the bird/aircraft strike problem.

The Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conduct research and management programs on the bird/strike problem. Officially, I represent the Fish and Wildlife Service, and not the other concerned agencies. Today I will bring you up-to-date about events that involve all three organizations.

- A. Yearly bird/plane strike data are collected and analyzed by both civil and Air Force interests.
- B. The FAA has issued Order #5200.5 to give aerodrome operators guidance concerning sanitary landfills on or near aerodromes.
- C. The National Transportation Safety Board has recommended to the FAA that special attention be given to the bird hazard to large by-pass fan jet engines.
- D. The U.S. Air Force conducts management and research both in-house and through other agencies, such as the Fish and Wildlife Service. The research includes several studies, briefly as follows:
  1. The recent completion of a manual to show radar operation how best to detect bird targets.
  2. The initiation of research to develop a model for predicting when blackbirds and starlings enter and leave roosts.
  3. Research utilizing radar data to develop a model for predicting bird migration in Southwestern United States.
  4. Planned research to study the attractiveness of milled or shredded garbage to gulls and other birds.
- E. The Fish and Wildlife Service, my employer, does research and management on agricultural, safety, health, and nuisance problems caused by blackbirds and starlings--species that can be hazards to aircraft. We recently completed another survey of major blackbird/starling roosts in the United States. This and past surveys indicate that the total U.S. winter population of these species approximates 1/2 billion birds. Since roosts of these birds can create problems, we are studying ways of changing roosting habitat to make it unattractive.

Because of recent publicity and concern about large blackbird/starling roosts in the United States, I will end this presentation with a very short film about a very large blackbird roost that was located at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, this past winter. The purpose of showing the film is to give you some idea of the large numbers of birds involved. This is a Department of Defense film. You will also see some film on the Peachtree Airport at Atlanta, Georgia, where a Lear Jet crashed a few years ago because of cowbirds.