

## BIRD HAZARD CHECK LIST

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### SUMMARY

The Check list is a sequence of points leading from recognition of a bird strike problem to the implementation of full measures.

*(It was developed during the ICAO bird Hazard Workshop in Nairobi, June 1989 and presented at the Workshop in Santiago in 1993.)*

## BIRD HAZARD CHECK LIST

Every airport is unique - deny the birds what they want.

BIRD STRIKE

- Are there birds on or flying over your airport?
- What sort are they?
  - Count and observe birds, determine species.
  - Check also at night and at different time of year.\*
- Is there a nearby garbage dump attracting birds to the area?\*
- Take all steps to get it moved or closed. Use the threat of liability if there is an accident.
- Is there agricultural or other activity on the airport which attracts birds?\*
- Negotiate with the farmer or landowner.
- Deal with it as for a garbage dump.
- What are the birds on the airport feeding on?\*
- Eliminate the source or modify so that it is unattractive, eg airport refuse, insects, termites, seeds.
- Long grass will help to reduce (by 80%) birds feeding or resting on the airport.
  - Maintain grass at 150 to 200 mm (6 to 8 inches). This may need special grass cutters which cost more. Perhaps wait until old grass cutters need to be replaced.
- Are your birds the sort with a distress call?+ If so proprietary tapes are available. Use in-car tape replay equipment and external speaker, cost about \$200 US, on an airport vehicle to frighten birds away. + (Note: Birds of prey and pigeons do not appear to have such a call.)
- Would the birds on your airport respond to shell crackers?
  - Try a gun to see the effect before obtaining shell crackers for use in a Very Pistol.
- Note that a control technique employed for one bird may invite others, eg killing birds may leave an ecological hole or result in scavenging birds searching for carcasses.
- Collect and assess all bird strike statistics.
  - Identify strike remains to verify that birds struck are the same as the birds seen on airport, consider help from your university\*, agricultural or wildlife service.
- Make all airport workers and farmers in the surrounding area aware of the problem and their responsibility - include ATC. Use briefings and posters.
- Create Terms of Reference outlining formal responsibilities and accountabilities for staff on airport.
- Consider setting up a small Bird Control Unit of motivated people, whose main responsibility is clearing birds from the airport. It could be cost effective, a badly damaged engine can cost up to ten million US dollars to repair. Even one committed person with a little help can significantly improve the bird hazard problem.

\* All part of need for **ecological study** which could be performed by students on holiday, or a university may be willing to include it as part of a thesis or special project.

NO ONE KNOWS ALL THE ANSWERS

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(Keywords: BI