

## Wildlife Strike Hazards

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Wildlife strikes are a serious safety issue for pilots and are the cause of extensive and possibly life-threatening damage to aircraft. Various wildlife are attracted to areas that reflect their natural habitat and provide basic living needs such as food, water and cover, airports included. Aircraft often strike birds and other animals because they are unable to detect and/or avoid them in time to avoid a collision. Wildlife strikes are largely uncontrolled events. This means that it is impossible to control exactly when an animal will or will not encounter an operating aircraft. By understanding and controlling possible animal habitats at the airport, wildlife strike risk can be reduced. In addition, airport planning plays an important role in wildlife strike hazard reduction. Proper planning of an airport can help to recognize land uses on or near the airport site that can potentially attract wildlife. By conducting Wildlife Hazard Assessments (WHA) and controlling land uses, wildlife strike hazards can be reduced.



**Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Wildlife Hazard Mitigation** website:

[http://www.faa.gov/airports/airport\\_safety/wildlife/](http://www.faa.gov/airports/airport_safety/wildlife/)

### **FAA SEARCHABLE DATABASE**

Since 1990, the FAA has maintained a database to record of frequency and type of strikes. Reporting is voluntary, but useful to develop mitigation techniques to minimize the threat. The database is searchable and exportable.

[FAA Wildlife Strike Database](#) – database search, report a strike, edit a strike report, or download the whole database

For more information on wildlife strikes or to report a strike, visit [www.birdstrike.org](http://www.birdstrike.org)

### **RESEARCH**

[Wildlife Strikes to Civil Aircraft in the United States \(1990 – 2010\)](#) – A Comprehensive Report on Wildlife Strikes to Aircraft (PDF-3.5MB)

[Some Significant Wildlife Strikes to Civil Aircraft in the United States \(1990 – 2011\)](#) – U.S. Department of Agriculture U.S. Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Wildlife Services (January 11, 2012) (PDF-1.8MB)

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