

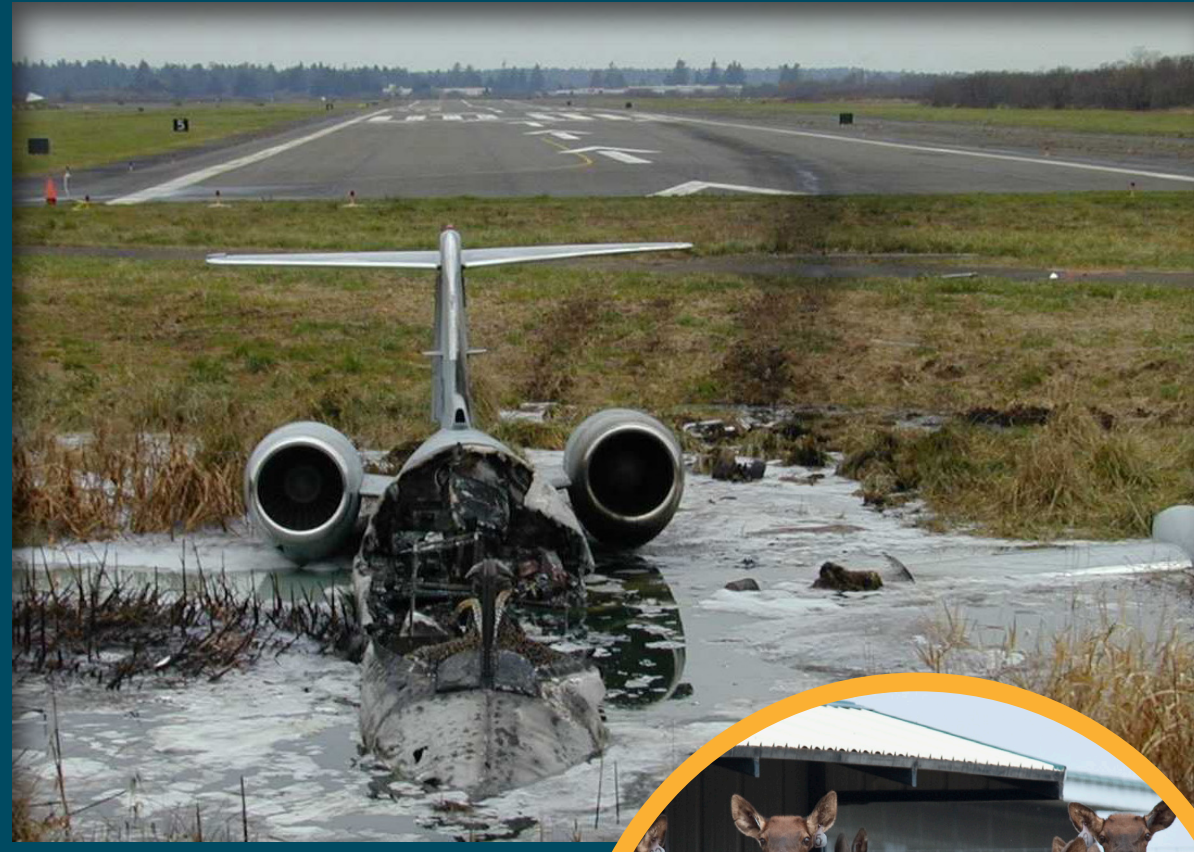
Report Wildlife Aircraft Strikes

Bird and other wildlife strikes are a serious and growing problem worldwide. Whether at a military or civil airport or enroute, wildlife hazards pose a constant threat to aviation safety. Understanding the source and volume of wildlife strikes is fundamental to managing the problem. But many strikes go unreported, making it difficult to determine the true scope and nature of the situation. Strike reporting is essential. The information provides wildlife experts the data they need to create more targeted, effective prevention and management plans for airports. Defining the problem means finding solutions.

Report all strikes to help manage these hazards.

Here are four examples of wildlife strikes that occurred in the United States. Information from these events can aid the aviation industry in its ongoing management and prevention efforts.

Wildlife Species: Elk
Date: December 2002
Aircraft: Learjet 36
Airport: Astoria Regional (Oregon)
Phase of Flight: Takeoff
Effect on Flight: Aborted takeoff, ran off runway
Damage: Aircraft destroyed



Comments From Report: A Learjet was destroyed after collision with multiple elk and subsequent runway overrun. Impact forces and post-crash fire destroyed the airplane. Crew believed a piece of the animal was ingested into the left engine, causing it to catch fire. Cost of damage was \$5 million.



Wildlife Species: Mallard
Date: April 2011
Aircraft: Boeing 757
Airport: Chicago O'Hare International Airport
Phase of Flight: Approach
Effect on Flight: Precautionary landing
Damage: Radome



Comments From Report: The pilot reported seeing three birds and struck two of them—the first hit the aircraft's nose cone (radome), denting it in over 12 inches. The second bird hit the rear left landing gear, causing no damage. The species was positively identified as mallard by the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Birds.



Wildlife Species: Snow Goose
Date: November 2010
Aircraft: EMB-175
Airport: Minneapolis-St. Paul International (MSP)
Phase of Flight: Climb
Effect on Flight: Precautionary landing
Damage: Radome, engine, fuselage

Comments From Report: During the climb at about 10 miles from airport, the aircraft collided with snow geese, damaging one engine, the fuselage, and the radome. The flight returned to MSP for a safe landing. The species was positively identified as snow goose by the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Birds.



Wildlife Species: Black Vulture
Date: August 2010
Aircraft: F-15E Jet
Phase of Flight: Air-to-ground
Effect on Flight: In-flight emergency
Damage: Radome, engine, fuselage

Comments From Report: The aircraft's jet engine ingested a black vulture at 520 feet near Poinsett Range in South Carolina. The engine blades came out of the top of the aircraft and engine, resulting in an engine fire and over \$10 million in damage.

WS Wildlife Services

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For More Information

For help identifying wildlife species involved in a strike or to obtain technical advice, direct assistance, or research on wildlife strikes, contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wildlife Services program at **1-866-4USDA-WS (1-866-487-3297)**.

To report a wildlife strike to civil aircraft, use the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Wildlife Strike Database:

<http://wildlife.faa.gov/>

To report a wildlife strike to Navy aircraft, use the Web Enabled Safety System (WESS):

<https://wess.safetycenter.navy.mil/wess/index.html>

To report a wildlife strike to U.S. Air Force aircraft, use the Air Force Safety Automated System (AFSAS):

<https://afsas-training.kirtland.af.mil/>



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