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Airports

FAA Briefing 2021

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BSC

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National Wildlife Strike Database Report

Data current January 1, 1990 – August 16, 2021 (26 reports over 31 years) 245,000+ strike incidents entered

Wildlife Strikes to Civil Aircraft in the United States, 1990-2020

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WILDLIFE SERVICES

Smithsonian Feather Lab identifies Cerulean Warbler struck by aircraft on April 28, 2020 as the 600th species of bird in the National Wildlife Strike Database

Federal Aviation Administration
National Wildlife Strike Database
Serial Report Number 27

Report of the Associate Administrator of Airports
Office of Airport Safety and Standards
Airport Safety & Certification
Washington, DC

June 2021

HIGHLIGHTS to *Wildlife Strikes to Civil Aircraft in the United States 1990–2020*



In 2020, 11,605 strikes were reported (32 strikes reported / day), a decline of 33% from 17,358 strikes in 2019 (48 strikes reported / day).



March 2019 – March 2020: Covid-19 resulted in a 72% reduction in passenger travel, and 37% and 28% reductions in Part 139 and civil aircraft movements, respectively.



March 2019 – March 2020: the strike rate (wildlife strikes/100,000 movements) declined 7% from 29.60 (2019) to 27.54 (2020); a decline of only 2.06 strikes/100,000 movements

HIGHLIGHTS to *Wildlife Strikes to Civil Aircraft in the United States 1990–2020*



Damaging strikes in 2020 comprised only 4% of all strikes. This number has declined from 20% in 1990 and averaged 7% between 1990-2020.



Damaging strikes declined since 2000 for commercial aircraft in the airport environment (<1,500 feet [AGL] - but have not declined for GA aircraft.



A BE 35 on approach to an airport in South Carolina at 120 knots and 1,100 feet above ground level struck a soaring black vulture, December 2020. The strike caused substantial damage to the wing. The pilot made a safe landing.

Photo, D. C. Vicente.

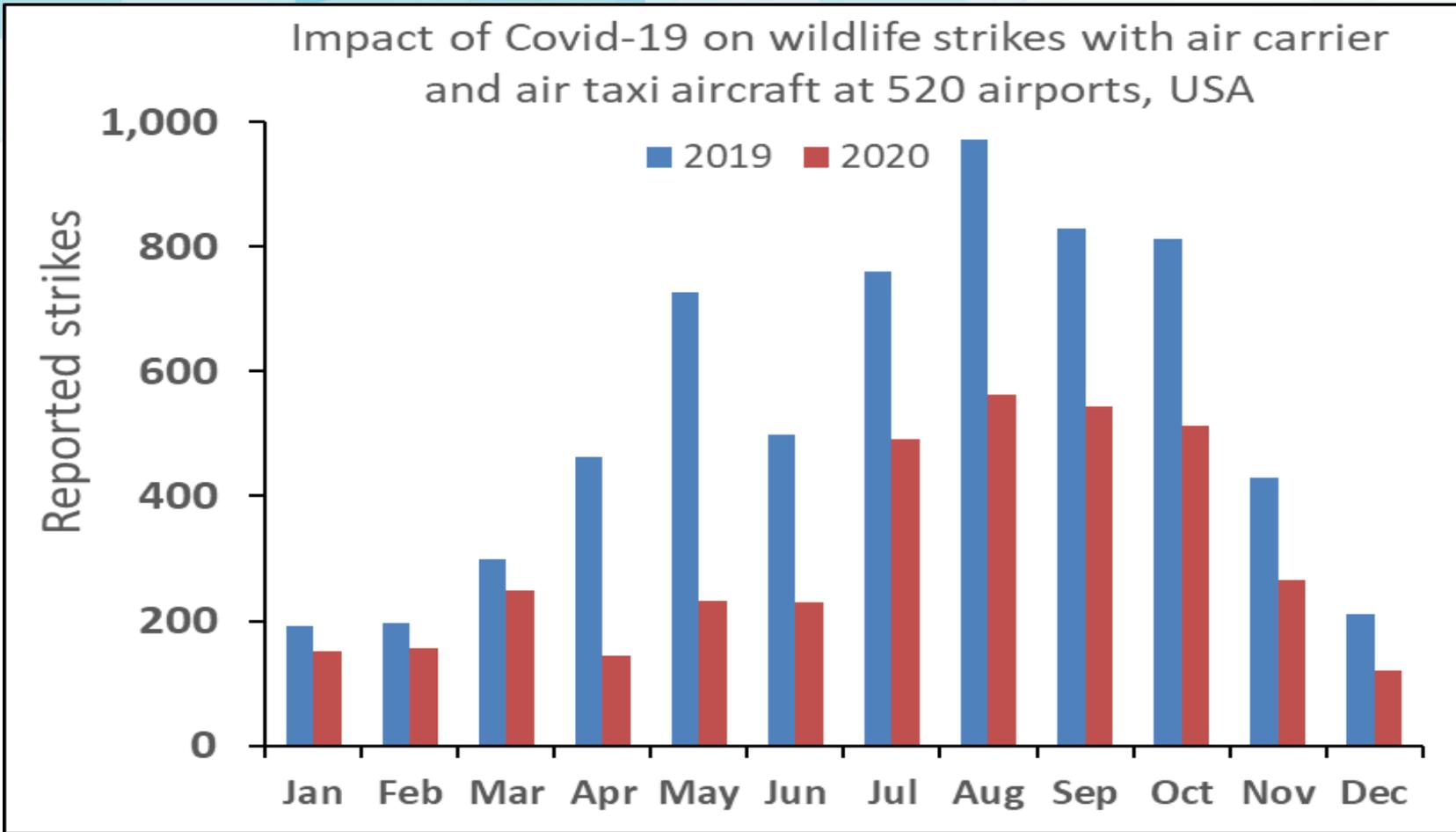


Figure 3. Wildlife strikes with air carrier/air taxi aircraft, Jan – Dec 2019 and 2020.

Figure and Data provided by Dr. Richard Dolbeer

National Wildlife Strike Database

FAA has continued to update and improve the existing NWSD website (<http://wildlife.faa.gov>) to make it more user-friendly and to allow more advanced data mining.

Updated software allows for strike reports to be vetted and publicly available in the NWSD within 2-3 days (or less!) of the strike report being submitted.

NWSD “Search the Database” enables queries on:

- airports, state, date of strike
- airlines, aircraft and engine types
- species struck, damage incurred

Without having to download the entire database



Photo credit: Amy Reed

Airport Cooperative Research Program

Current ACRP projects:

- 1) **ACRP 10-30:** *Evaluating the Effectiveness of an Airport's Wildlife Hazard Management Program*
- 2) **ACRP 11-03/Topic S10-17:** *Agricultural Operations on Airport Grounds*
- 3) **ACRP 11-03/Topic S10-18:** *Considerations for Establishing and Maintaining Successful Bee Programs on Airports*



Apiaries at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

Source: Rod Hatfield for the Port of Seattle

Annual Airport Wildlife Hazard Training

- Eligible for extension or virtual training if available during COVID lockdown
- At this time, no additional extensions



FAA Cooperative Research 2020/2021 Projects

- Evaluation of unmanned aerial systems as wildlife survey and hazing tools
- Developing risk assessments associated with wildlife-aircraft collisions relative to management efforts at airports
- Studying the visual responses of birds to LED lighting and potentially using the data to engineer aircraft lighting to reduce bird strikes



allaboutbirds.org

FAA Cooperative Research 2020/2021 Projects

- Habitat use, movements and foraging strategies of hazardous wildlife on and near airports
- Evaluation of translocation as a management tool: Cooper's Hawks, Great-Horned Owls, Laysan Albatross
- Investigating the effects of landscape structure on the adverse effect bird strike rates at civil airports



FAA Cooperative Research 2020/2021 Projects

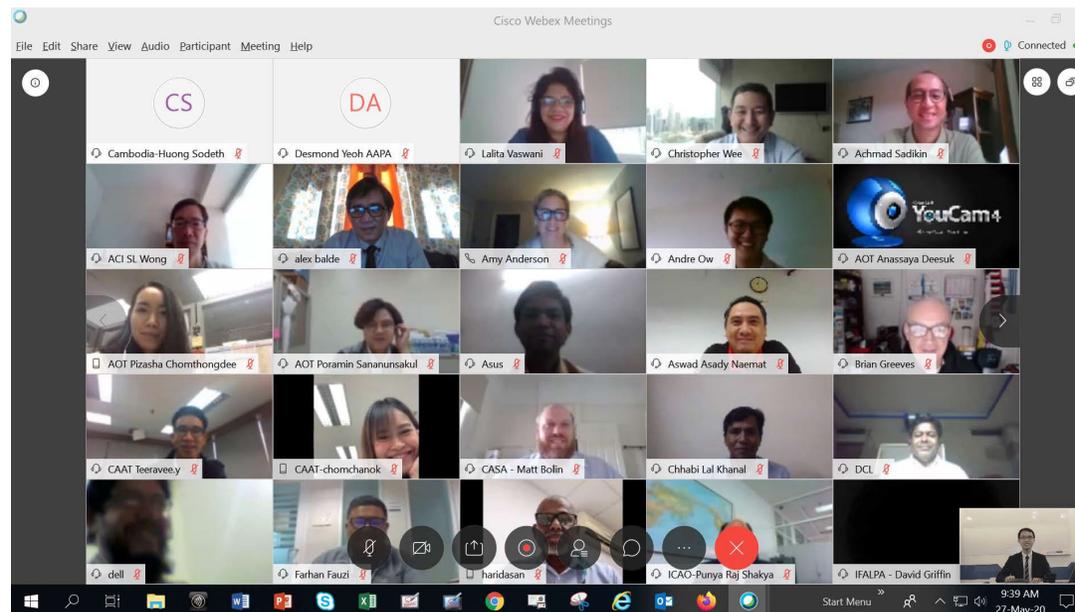
- Efficacy of avian radar systems for tracking birds on airfields
- Assisting USFWS on locating an avian radar on Midway Atoll that would provide important data on increased populations and movements of the Bonin Petrel and how it may affect flight schedules at Henderson Field.



ebird.org

FAA International Wildlife Efforts 2020

- Participated in webinars to assist ICAO Asia-Pacific Region with development of new wildlife regulatory guidance
- Presented at the 18th CAR/SAM Central-South American Regional Bird/Wildlife Hazard Prevention Committee Meeting and Conference and will also present this year at the 2021 meeting.



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FAA International Wildlife Efforts 2020

- Lead for ICAO to update Birdstrike Information System (IBIS) manual (Doc 9332)
- Submitted proposal to ICAO to permit international strike data access and data sharing
- Presented at World Birdstrike Association's Annual Meeting



Questions?

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