

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

2006 Bird Strike Committee USA/Canada, 8th  
Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO

Bird Strike Committee Proceedings

---

August 2006

## BIRDS COMMUTING ACROSS THE RUNWAY: HOW TO REDUCE THIS BIRD STRIKE RISK?

Albert de Hoon  
*Royal Netherlands Air Force*

Luit Buurma  
*Military Aviation Authority, The Netherlands*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/birdstrike2006>



Part of the [Environmental Health and Protection Commons](#)

---

de Hoon, Albert and Buurma, Luit , "BIRDS COMMUTING ACROSS THE RUNWAY: HOW TO REDUCE THIS BIRD STRIKE RISK?" (2006). *2006 Bird Strike Committee USA/Canada, 8th Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO*. 24.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/birdstrike2006/24>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Bird Strike Committee Proceedings at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2006 Bird Strike Committee USA/Canada, 8th Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

**(23) BIRDS COMMUTING ACROSS THE RUNWAY: HOW TO REDUCE THIS BIRD STRIKE RISK?**

*Albert de Hoon*, Royal Netherlands Air Force; *Luit Buurma*, Military Aviation Authority, The Netherlands

Not only birds residing at airports, but also birds commuting daily across the runways from and to places outside the airport boundaries, may pose a threat to departing and landing aircraft. Species such as gulls, geese, cormorants, ducks, flamingos, starlings and crows often have foraging sites that can be miles away from their breeding or roosting places. Dealing with those commuting birds that pass over airports on a daily basis is complicated because their roosting, breeding, and foraging sites do not belong to the airport's property. The solution to the problem becomes even more complex when these sites are part of protected nature areas; local, national, and international laws increasingly require states to protect birds and their habitats. Airport authorities are caught in a dilemma because recently (2003) enacted standards by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) require that "the appropriate authority shall take action to decrease the number of birds ... by adopting measures for discouraging their presence on, or in the vicinity of, an aerodrome" and "any such other source attracting bird activity on, or in the vicinity of, an aerodrome shall be eliminated or their establishment prevented...". How can airport authorities deal with these conflicting regulations and mitigate hazards caused by commuting birds to departing and arriving aircraft? Different approaches for current and future situations at various airports throughout the world, ranging from shooting the commuting birds as they cross the airport boundary to adjusting flight schedules of aircraft, will be discussed.