



Bird Strike Committee USA

Winter 2021

Bird Strike Buzz

Volume 7, No. 1

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BSC USA Website

Check out our website for regulatory information, guidance and conference proceedings at:

<http://www.birdstrike.org>

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Bird Strike Committee USA (BSC-USA) Members,

As the new Chair of Bird Strike Committee USA (BSC-USA), I want to express my gratitude for the continued support during the Executive Team’s transition that took place during a global pandemic! It’s an understatement to say that 2020 has presented all of us with many impacts and challenges both personally and professionally. I am excited to work with our new Vice-chair, Craig Quick, and Immediate Past-Chair, John Weller as the Executive Team, and with the Steering Committee to secure a bright new future during these ever-changing times.

It was with great disappointment that we had to cancel this year’s meeting in Minneapolis due to the concerns with COVID-19 and virus exposure/transfer in mass gatherings. I’m confident that we will get back to annual, in-person meetings. In the interim, we will need to focus on other creative ways for us to stay connected including our upcoming webinar series, virtual meetings, social media and newsletter publications.

Strike Zone Webinar Series Launched!

BSC-USA kicked off its “Strike Zone” webinar series on September 29, 2020. John Weller and Amy Anderson of FAA hosted the inaugural webinar by providing an FAA Regulatory Update that focused on the FAA’s two most recent advisory circulars (ACs): AC 150/5200-38, “Protocol for the Conduct and Review of Wildlife Hazard Site Visits, Wildlife Hazard Assessments, and Wildlife Hazard Management Plans,” issued August 20, 2018, and AC 150/5200-33C, “Wildlife Hazard Attractants On and Near Airports,” issued February 21, 2020. If you missed it, the webinar will be made available online at <http://www.birdstrike.org>.

We hope to host webinars bi-monthly, and all are invited to join. Our next webinar will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2021, when Dr. Jay Tischendorf presents “The Wild World of Zoonotic Disease” (see page 3 for details). Announcements for this and forthcoming webinars will be distributed to current members, posted on the BSC-USA website and on our Facebook Page.



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BSC USA Executive Committee

The BSC USA Executive Committee welcomes your input and insights regarding the organization, in operations and matters of interest to our members. Please feel free to contact the members below with ideas or suggestions.

Nick Atwell, Chair
Portland International Airport
nick.atwell@portofportland.com

Craig Quick, Vice Chair
General Electric
craig.quick@GE.com

John Weller, Immediate Past Chair
Federal Aviation Administration
john.weller@faa.gov

Standing Committees
Membership, Amy Anderson
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Annual Conference, Jim Laughlin
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The Boeing Company
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Newsletter Team
Lisa Harmon, Mead & Hunt, Inc.
Tamara Sortman, Mead & Hunt, Inc.

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Committee News

The Steering Committee welcomes five new steering committee members to represent different areas of expertise within the aviation industry.

- Lt. Col. Mike Culley (Air National Guard) will be one of three representatives for the U.S. Department of Defense,
- Mathew Jones (Southwest Airlines), will represent the Airline Industry,
- Michael Stephens (Dane County Regional Airport) will represent Airports,
- Amy Anderson (FAA) will represent the FAA, and
- Roger Nicholson (Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation) rejoins the Steering Committee to represent Aerospace Industry.

Also of note: Jim Laughlin (USDA,-Beale Air Force Base) is now Chair of the Conference Committee, and Kimberly Owen (The Boeing Company) is now serving as Chair of the Research & Development Committee.

The following positions remain open:

- Private Sector Services (one position),
- Aerospace Industry (two positions),
- Airlines (one position), and
- General (one position).

If you are interested in any of these positions, please send email to birdstrike.usa@gmail.com.

I am committed to being an active and strategic leader of our committee. The BSC-USA committee will continue to evolve while applying adaptive management principles, but only with your involvement. Please visit our website (<http://www.birdstrike.org>) to see the open positions on the Steering Committee and ways to participate in the six standing committees.

I would like to end with a special thanks to Sarah Brammell for her eight-year commitment on the Executive Committee and John Weller as the Immediate Past-Chair. You both have displayed outstanding professionalism, expertise, and leadership that has set this committee up for success!

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon!

Nick Atwell, Chair



SAVE THE DATE!

August 17-19, 2021



To receive conference updates, [click to subscribe](#).

BSC USA MISSION

BSC USA is dedicated to providing leadership in managing wildlife hazards to aviation.

Objectives

The principal objectives of BSC USA are to:

1. Facilitate the exchange of information regarding the characteristics and management of wildlife hazards and risk to aviation safety among airport operators; military and civilian governmental agencies involved in aviation or wildlife management; government, university and private research agencies; the air transport/general aviation industry; and the general public.
2. Promote the collection and analysis of accurate wildlife strike data for military and civil aviation in the USA to better a) understand strike hazards and risk, b) promote and develop effective and appropriate management programs and c) evaluate the efficacy of management programs.
3. Promote research and development of effective procedures, methods, and technologies for reducing aviation wildlife hazards and risk to aviation safety.
4. Promote professionalism in wildlife management programs on and near airports through training and advocacy of high standards of conduct for airport biologists and wildlife patrol personnel.
5. Serve as the national expert body and liaison to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), national/international Bird Strike Committees and to other professional aviation and wildlife organizations on aviation wildlife hazards.

Source: Bylaws of Bird Strike Committee USA, Sections 2 and Section 3. Adopted July 9, 2018.



LATEST FROM THE LAB

*Marcy Heacker and Carla Dove
Smithsonian Institution Feather ID Lab*

Adapt: *To become adjusted to new conditions (Oxford English Dictionary).*

Like all of you, the Smithsonian Feather ID Lab is adjusting to the “new normal.” We can’t help but wonder if adaptation in nature is as confusing and stressful as it is for humans as we adjust to a world with COVID-19.

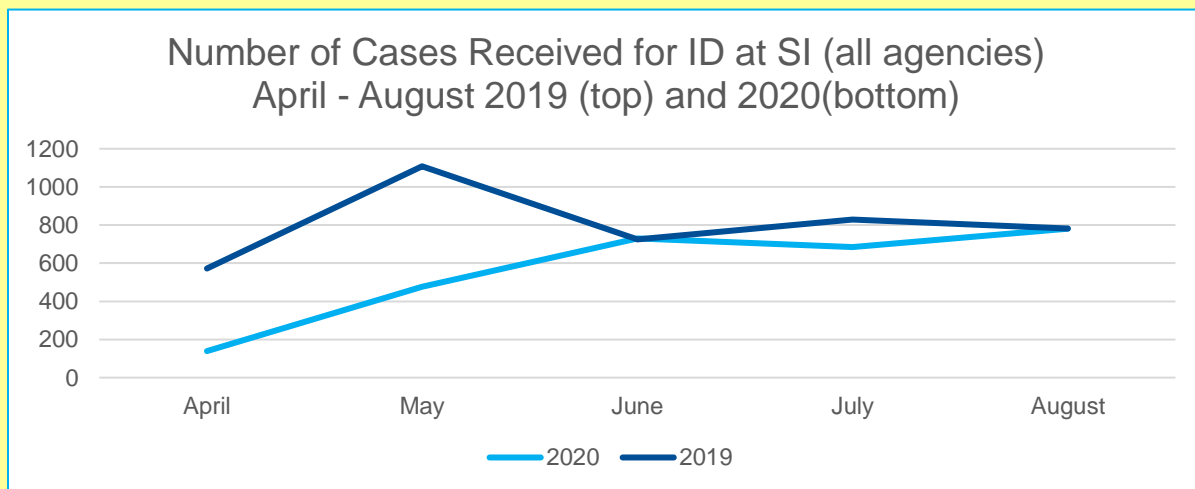
So far, the Lab’s “adaptations” have been positive, and we are open for business! Currently, one or two staff members are allowed to be in the museum each day and telework on other days. We are happy to report that our ID services are working at an almost normal rate. Since mail is only delivered to our building once a week, current turnaround time may be a little longer than you are used to seeing.

Variation in Bird Strike Cases Received for ID

When we compare the number of bird strike cases received for ID this year to the number of cases received last year, we see that there was a distinct decrease in cases after the COVID quarantine began (see table below). Compared to last year, the number of cases was down 75% in April and down 57% in May. However, things started to stabilize in June, and the number of cases the Lab received was similar to last year.

Despite the quarantine adjustment, the number of cases sent by the U.S. Navy for ID has increased, causing the overall numbers of cases to increase by 19% during this time. This is different from the overall numbers associated with civil aircraft and U.S. Air Force for April through August. During this time, the number of cases for civil aircraft decrease by 59%, and the number for the Air Force decreased by 16% by Air Force. So, it looks like things are “adapting” or settling into a more normal caseload for the Lab – just in time for fall migration!

Keep up the good work!



Source: Smithsonian Institution Feather ID Lab, 2020

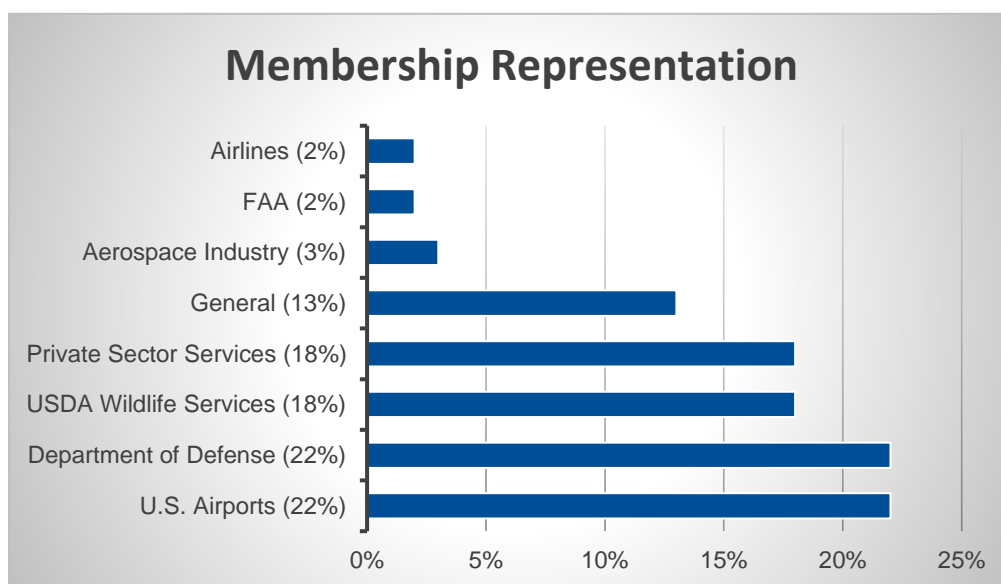


MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Amy Anderson, FAA

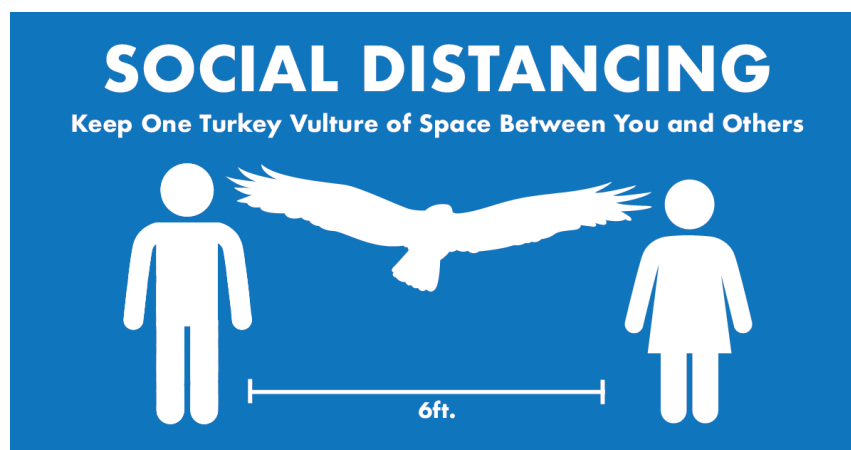
BSC-USA membership continues to grow, with a total of 450 members in September 2020. Our members represent all 50 states and territories of the U.S. and 27 countries around the world.

Members are grouped into eight different categories: U.S. Airports (22%), Department of Defense (22%), USDA Wildlife Services (18%), Private Sector Services (18%), General (13%), Aerospace Industry (3%), FAA (2%) and Airlines (2%).



Becoming a member is easy and free! Just fill out the membership form at (<http://www.birdstrike.org/contact-bsc/membership>) to receive our (free!) e-newsletter and information about our annual conference, webinars, and other events.

Volunteers are welcome! As a BSC member you will have the opportunity to join one of our committees and perhaps be involved in planning conferences, organizing outreach events or contribute to the newsletter. Our committees include: Communications, Conference, Education & Outreach, Membership, and Research & Development.



Source: www.everythingbirds.com



BSC USA LAUNCHES NEW “STRIKE ZONE” WEBINAR SERIES:

A New Approach to the New “Normal”

John Ostrom, Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport

Lisa Harmon, Mead & Hunt Inc.

Although the cancellation of 2020 Annual Conference was disappointing, BSC USA is not deterred in its efforts to “provide leadership in managing wildlife hazards to aviation.”

“We need to keep things moving in the absence of the Conference,” says John Ostrom, former Conference Chair, “and a monthly or bi-monthly webinar just seemed to make sense. We don’t know what’s going to happen in the future, but we can use the technology available now to distribute information among our membership. The Committee’s first objective is to facilitate the exchange of information regarding wildlife hazards and risks to aviation, and we need to be true to our organization’s mission and objective.”

In the past, BSC USA has relied on its annual conference or the North American Bird Strike Conferences as its primary venue for distributing new data to membership. In the absence of the 2020 conference, the committee launched the Strike Zone webinar on September 29, 2020, with an inaugural presentation, “FAA Regulatory Update”, provided by representatives John Weller and Amy Anderson. More than 50 members attended, and the information was appreciated by all. The presentation will be posted to the BSC website so that visitors may download and review the data. **Stay tuned for more details!**

STRIKE ZONE WEBINAR: The Wild World of Zoonotic Disease

Thursday, January 14, 2021, at Noon (Eastern)

Bird Strike Committee USA (BSC-USA) will present the second webinar in its Strike Zone series. Jay Tischendorf, DVM will host the webinar entitled “The Wild World of Zoonotic Disease” on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at noon (eastern).

Zoonotic diseases are infectious conditions shared between animals and humans. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic demonstrated how significant and frightening these “diseases of nature” can be, potentially affecting all aspects of our existence and tragically claiming lives. The presentation will provide an overview of zoonotic disease and touch upon the long and fascinating relationship between zoonoses and humans, and it will offer insights and guidance on protecting ourselves from these often-dangerous maladies. All who work with wildlife will benefit from this energetic and informative presentation.

Dr. Jay Tischendorf is a veterinarian and wildlife biologist who works in both the natural resources/conservation field and the pharmaceutical industry. He is passionate about educating people on the dangers of infectious and zoonotic diseases and speaks widely – and energetically – to audiences ranging from fellow medical and natural resource professionals to nuisance wildlife operators and animal control officers. His work has taken him from coast to coast and into Canada and Central America. Dr. Jay is a former US Marine, EMT, and wildland firefighter. He splits his time among Montana, Texas, Kansas, and Maine.

Participation in the strike zone series is limited to the first 250 participants who login.

Click to join via [Teams](#) or call in to the audio session at 612-405-6798, and enter Conference ID 764 558 232#.



TECH TIPS

Russ Odell, USDA

Biologists are fast at work improving efficacy and efficiency, saving time and space, and still getting the job done. So, why set one trap when you can set two at the same time?

A two-cambered trap will help you improve your chances of removing an entire family group from a hazardous location. Pictured at right is a goshawk trap that has been divided in half to allow for the capture of two American Kestrels.

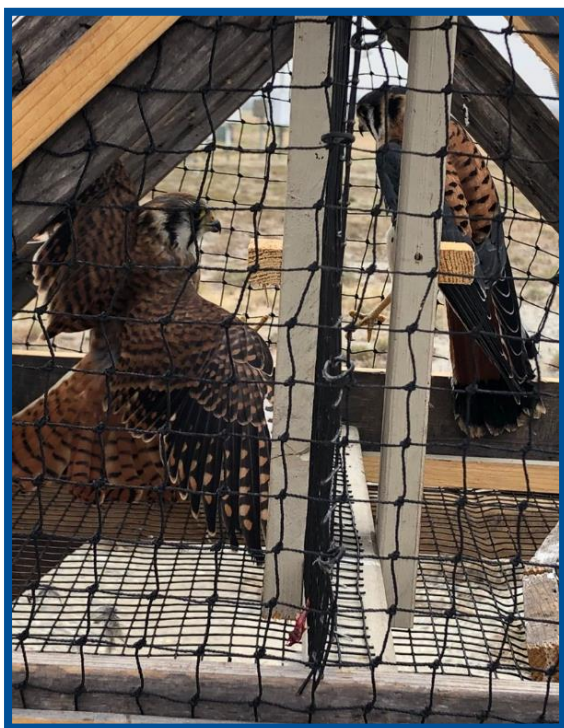


Photo courtesy of Russ Odell, USDA

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 14, 2021 at Noon (Eastern)

Strike Zone Webinar Series No. 2

The Wild World of Zoonotic Disease

With Dr. Jay Tischendorf, DVM

An overview of zoonotic disease and the relationship between zoonoses and humans.

February 11, 2020 at Noon Eastern

Strike Zone Webinar Series No. 3

Beyond the Boundaries: Managing Off-site Wildlife Hazards within the Critical Zone.

*With Lisa Harmon and Maranda Thompson
Mead & Hunt, Inc.*

Strategies for preventing wildlife hazards on non-airport property within the Critical Zone.

August 17-19, 2021

BIRD STRIKE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Stay tuned for details!