

A " KNOW YOUR BIRDS " POSTER

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In aviation and most of all in problems concerning flight-safety, it is very normal to use informative and motivating posters. A poster gives the possibility to reach a lot of people and keeps the information instantly available. Why a poster with birdspecies ? Statistical analysis of birdstrike data proves that although about 100 birdspecies were involved, the majority of strikes are caused only by about 10 species. In practice, we saw that even these species are not sufficiently known by the non-ornithologist. However it is very important to determine the birdspecies exactly. For example : the identification by pilots and technicians of birds involved in strikes and the efficient utilisation of distress-call equipment by Bird Combat Units. Besides this, a poster will attract attention and will make the problems known by everybody. This fact by itself will help to create a positive attitude versus the difficult problem of birdstrike prevention.

For this reasons, it seemed very appropriate to bring together on a poster the birdspecies common on our airfields or frequently involved in strikes.

As for the gulls, the black-headed gull ( Larus ridibundus ), the common gull ( Larus canus ) and the herring gull ( Larus argentatus ) are represented in different stages of age. Furtheron we selected the lapwing ( Vanellus vanellus ), the starling ( Sturnus vulgaris ), the woodpigeon ( Columba palumbus ) and some trushes as the blackbird ( Turdus merula ), the songtrush ( Turdus philomelos ) and the mistle trush ( Turdus viscivorus ). As for the corvids, the carrion crow ( Corvus corone ), the rook ( Corvus frugilegus ) and the jackdaw ( Corvus monedula ) are very common on airfields ; fortunately the cause only a small number of strikes. Although only occasionally involved in strikes - but of an outstanding weight-category - the mallard ( Anas platyrhynchos ) was added too.

For all these species, the Dutch, English, French and scientific names are indicated.

All the birds have been placed in a so-called " Airfield-habitat ". The landing F-16 fighter has the role of the eye-catcher.

It is our aim to distribute this poster on a large scale in our Wings and Air-Staffs, so that everybody who has something to do with the problem of birdstrike prevention is informed.

It is our hope that, after some time, these ~~categories~~ categories of birds will be easily identified and that this will be a contribution in the struggle against birdstrikes.

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