United States Department of Agriculture

BASH Meeting
NAS-WI (FY21 2nd Quarter)
USDA-Wildlife Services

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Forecasted Wildlife Activity

- **Raptors**
  - Increase in raptor activity as spring migration begins
- **Waterfowl**
  - Waterfowl numbers have remained high through the winter, expected to remain high until summer nesting season
- **Shorebirds**
  - High activity through the winter months
- **Songbirds**
  - Expected uptick in activity as migration begins in the spring
- **Deer**
  - Has remained low, but last year during spring months there was increase in activity
- **Coyotes-**continuous/ongoing

Strikes

FY2021 Q2		
Guild	**# strikes**	**Damage/Cost**
Dove/Pigeons	1	$24
Raptor	1	$24
SHOREBIRD	1	$24
Songbird	5	$120
unknown	2	$48
Waterfowl	1	$24
Grand Total	**11**	**$264**

- We have better strike reporting and submission per comm. with Smithsonian Bird ID Lab (keep up the good work!)
- I have assisted several squadrons with bird strike collection/submission(some of you are doing great, while others I see there is a break in the communication chain as to how to collect, submit and who to contact)
- Call 360-688-0737 if you have any questions!

- *Damage cost is an estimate only, in the RMI system the cost column shows zeros for every strike currently from what I can pull out of the system
- Hopefully, the cost is being entered and its computer/system error
- If you have a damaging strike that's more than the baseline $24 for strike submission, please email me the cost until the RMI functions properly
- Also email me if you have a strike as the new system does not let me see strikes that have not been validated and worked through the system(I can't pull any data that is pending review or awaiting strike analysis)
- The WESS data that was supposed to be transferred over by now is still not in the system so historical analysis is difficult at best

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Please print this page and give copies to anyone who may need to collect or report a bird strike (call 360-688-0737 with any questions)

Strike Reporting Steps

1.Collect samples with alcohol swabs and place in Ziploc bag, then freezer.

2.Notify Squadron ASO of Strike

3.HAZREP all strikes relatively soon after strike (24 hours if possible)

- USN Safety Center-All strikes need associated cost even if zero damage
- $24/hour for DoD personnel; $55/hour for contracted maintenance

4.Staple HAZREP to sample bag

5.Mail to Smithsonian Feather Lab-(Official Mail)

Strikes

HAZREPs lack spatial detail

•Add as much detail as possible, altitude, location if able

•Strike data is not very useful to a pilot without spatial data

•For strikes occurring within 5 miles of airfield, please "HAZREP" as much detail as possible

Species ID is critical for airfield wildlife management, IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE PLEASE CONTACT **USDA OR ASO**, HELP US HELP YOU!

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Incursions October-December 2021

- Majority of incursions were Raptor species
  - (308 of 435 total incursion observations)
- Waterfowl accounted for 2nd most incursions (53 of 435 incursions)
- Shorebirds accounted for (35 of 435 incursions)
- R25 is a hotspot from both raptors and waterfowl(mainly swans), R07 hotspot is mostly shorebird/raptors activity, R14 is mostly raptors

*it should be noted this map represents a hotspot of incursions and does not factor in the number of individuals per incursion nor the body size of species (that is data is coming soon..)

Incursions (AGL)
QTR1 FY21 NAS-WI

Guild	0	1-100ft	101-200ft	201ft +	Grand Total
Blackbirds	1				1
Corvids	3	9	3	1	16
Gulls	4	6	2	1	13
Mammals	4				4
Pigeons		1			1
Raptors	25	247	15	21	308
Shorebirds	20	17			37
Waders		2			2
Waterfowl		32	11	10	53
Grand Total	**57**	**314**	**31**	**33**	**435**

-Most strikes occur below 500 AGL

-It is important to get above 500 AGL as soon as possible

-Above numbers represent an “incursion” and type of animal. They are not the number of individuals observed

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Waterfowl Activity (Ducks/Geese)

Green-winged Teal

Bufflehead duck

Mallard

-Waterfowl activity increased during the fall months and continues to remain high

-Expect large flocks in the area until nesting season in early summer

-Main areas are Barrier 23 ditch and RSL ditches

-Incursions of R32 common

*Hotspot map of # of observations, not how many were observed Oct-Dec 2020

Swans

-First sighted on the airfield October 27th

-this is a few weeks earlier than last year(November 11)

-Historically at times over 100 individuals observed crossing the airfield a day (peaking at about 200 individuals)

-Numbers have dwindled but populations remain present on and around the island

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2020 Swan Activity
(hotspot map of observations)

-typical/historical flight path/pattern of swan daily movements

-most flights at dusk

-FSP 2021 is still active

-approach end of R25 is most at risk for strikes as birds are headed to the bay and nearby cornfield

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Wading Birds

Great-blue Heron

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Wading Birds (October-December 2020)

- Barrier 23 ditch is the main hotspot
  - USDA removed 12 Great Blue Herons last QTR
- Occasionally observed elsewhere on the airfield such as RSL ditches
- Fish in the flowing ditches is the main attractant
- Incursion of R32 is common when this species is present
- Numbers have dropped of significantly since early fall

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Shorebirds

Western Sandpiper

Black-bellied Plover

Shorebirds
(OCT-DEC 2020)

- Shorebird activity increased dramatically during the fall/winter
- Numbers remain high, especially on windy/rainy days
- Groups of 50-300 birds have been observed
- Most observations are R07/ECHO/GULF/MIKE
- Significant strike hazard
- Difficult to disperse which can cause delays in aircraft take-off/landings

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Columbian Black-tailed Deer

- Deer observations on the airfield have been much lower over the last quarter
- However, during the spring months in 2020 deer activity emerged as a major concern and continued through the summer
- USDA will closely monitor deer activity

R14

Barrier 23 Ditch

OLF Coupeville

North of R25

Coyotes

- Coyote presence on the airfield has picked up during breeding season
- Typically found near R32 and R14 ends where it is forested
- USDA continues to remove problem animals as they are discovered

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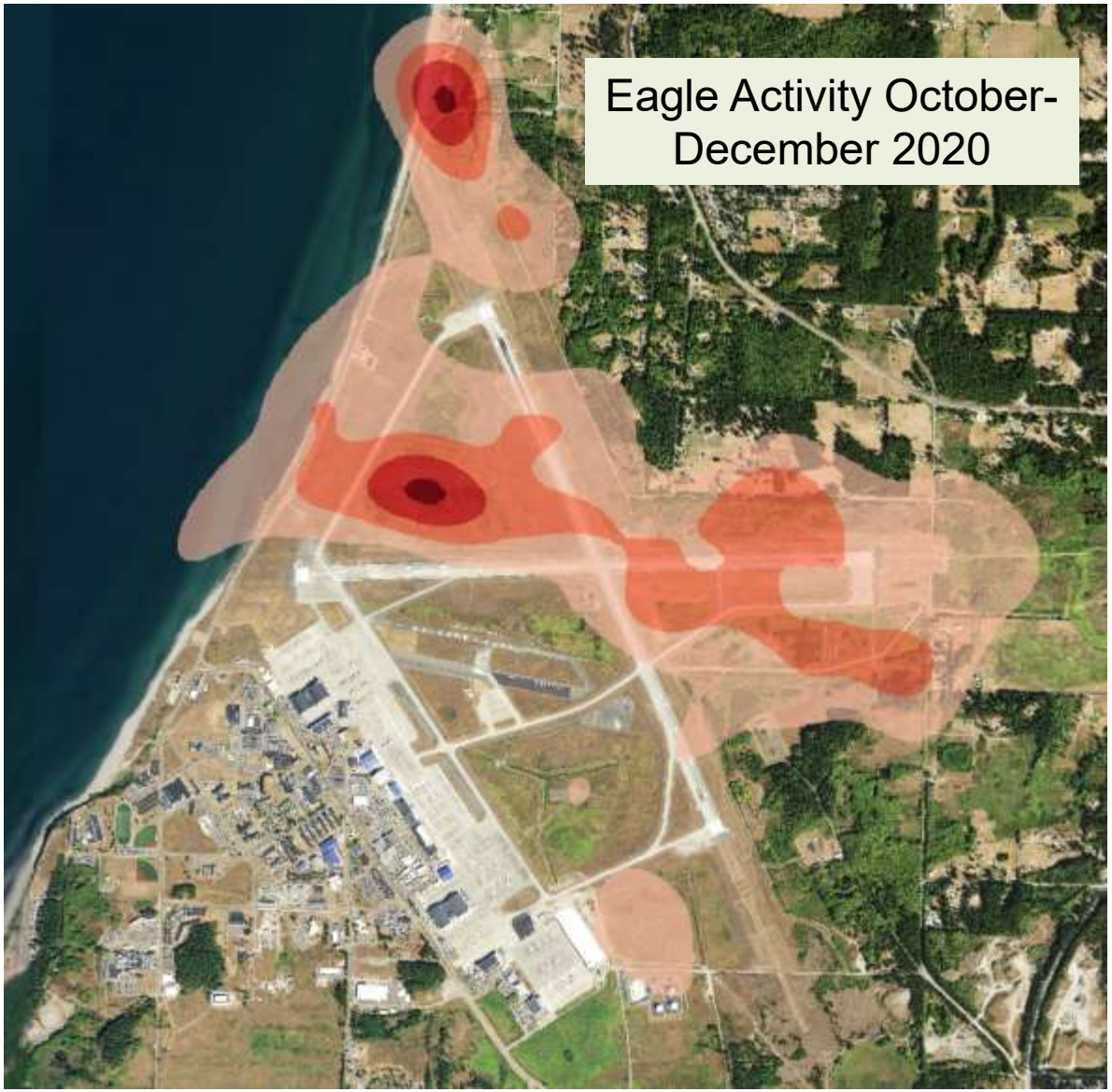
BALD EAGLES



- Eagle activity increased during the fall and continues to increase during this current quarter
- Majority of eagles are observed perching at the transmitters, fir trees just off the airfield north of R14 and along the beach
- Recently 2-5 birds at a time have been observed towering at 500+ feet AGL near midfield
- USDA is working on a possible solution to harass these towering birds

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Raptor Species

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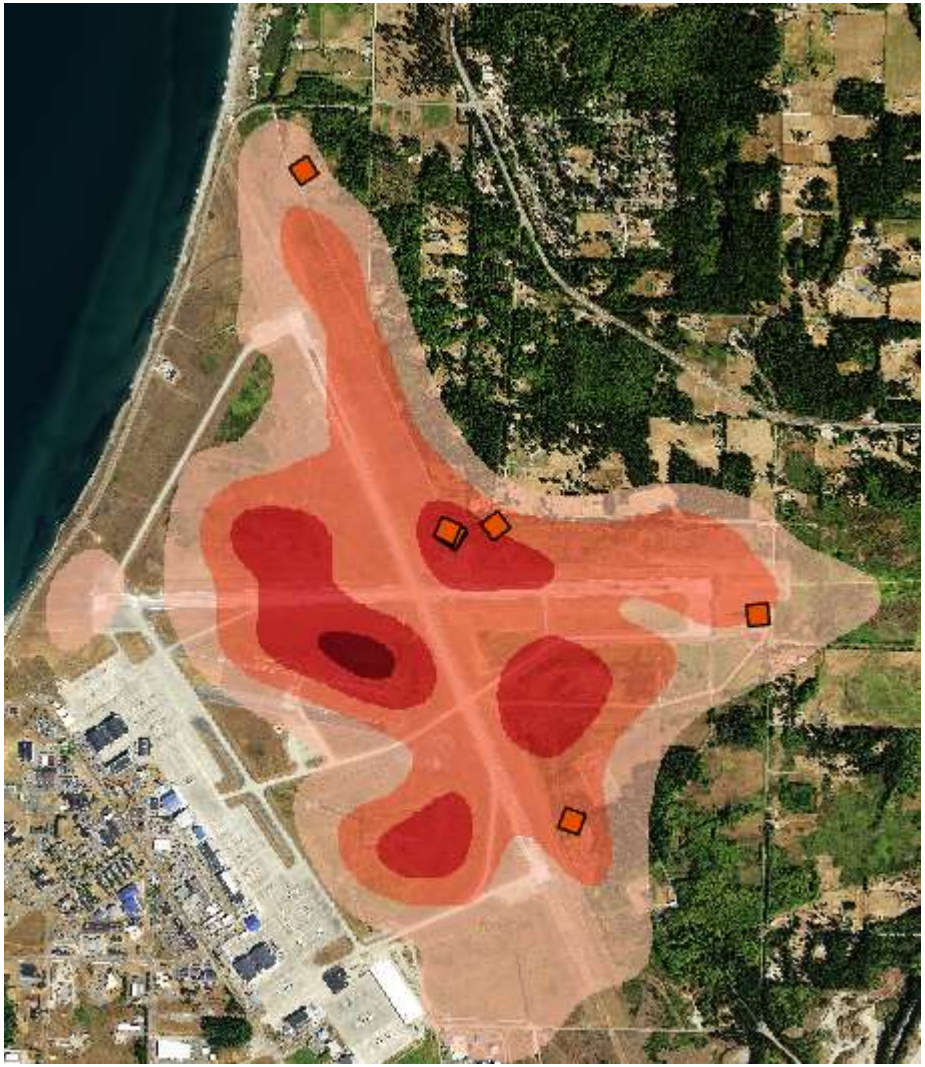
Raptor Activity (not including eagles)

October-December 2020

- USDA trapped and relocated 11 raptors during QTR4
- Weather conditions during the fall made trapping difficult with heavy winds, rain and cold temps
- Trapping efforts are ongoing to relocate/remove new birds



■ =trapped location

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Habitat Concerns

R25 LIGHTS

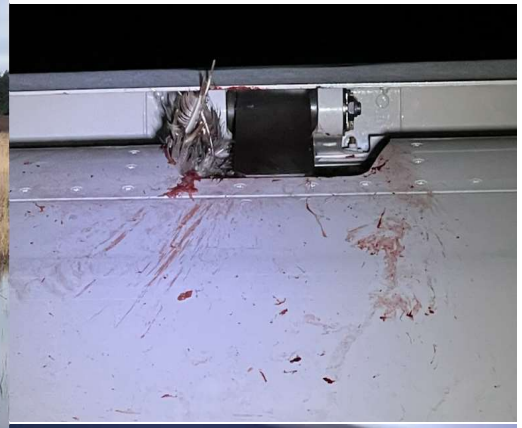
-during wet months last year and this year the road and berms around the R25 lights are holding back large amounts of water. **This is very attractive to waterfowl and at least one strike has been recorded from ducks in these areas each year.**

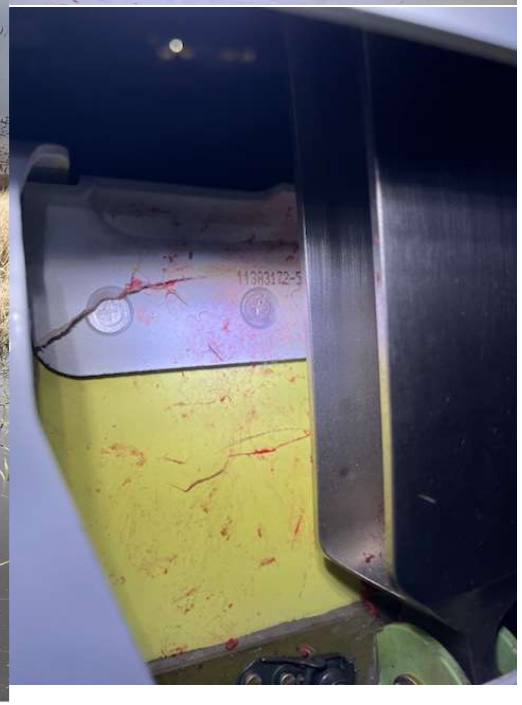
-Most recently a Mallard Duck (high strike/damage hazard species)

-USDA has observed Mallard ducks using these flooded areas multiple times this spring

-Drainage installation is highly recommended!

Mallard strike on P8





Attractants

- When lids are left open on dumpsters it can attract gulls and crows in search of food

Keep Dumpster lids closed!

- Below is a photo from right outside Building 385

Other Topics

-Wildlife Dispersal and Detection Team (WDDT) status?

Training has been completed for most members, finishing up training for last few individuals.

-Use of Pyros?

WDDT staff has been trained on the use and storage of pyrotechnics. Logistics of storing and acquiring pyrotechnics for WDDT use will need to be discussed.

(DO NOT PLACE WILDLIFE IN FREEZER WITHOUT INFO! Data sheets are in the binder in the freezer. PLEASE FILL THEM OUT and/or Contact USDA personnel.)

-Wildlife/Security Fence Funding?

-Prescribed Burn in future?

-Other Thoughts/Comments?

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