

National Bird Population Statistics as a Tool for Strategic Bird Management Decisions.

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Bird management on and around aerodromes has developed over many years and has often focused on techniques designed to manage the risk from particular species. In the UK, for example, waterbody management was originally designed to prevent gull roost formations through a reduction in areas of large, open water. Irregularised embankments or the addition of islands was not considered to constitute a risk to other species. At the time of those management efforts, Canada Geese were low in number and were not present around aerodromes. Today, modern methods of deterring other species from aerodromes may be presenting habitats that are suitable for new species that are currently increasing. By evaluating national bird population trends and statistics in combination with potential risk, long-term strategic management decisions to prevent future birdstrike risks may be taken. This paper examines the decision tools available to prevent future risk from birds arising in the aerodrome environment.