

## **The Relationship Between National Bird Populations and Birdstrike Risk.**

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Birdstrike risk is dictated by a combination of the hazard a bird poses to an aircraft (generally its size or flocking behaviour) and the probability that such a bird will come into contact with an aircraft (population size and local movements). Changing agricultural practices, climate, habitat and human populations have all resulted in significant increases or decreases in the national populations of different birds. In the UK, trends in some species have been marked and may show correlations with the numbers of birdstrikes encountered. This paper examines the possibilities of using long-term national population trends to develop models to predict birdstrike risk in future.