

(P1) Threats and prevention methods to avoid bird strikes at the Deblin Military Airfield, Poland

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The first project in Poland devoted to study on bird strikes at military airfields was conducted from 2007 to 2010. The studies were carried out at the Deblin airfield. This airfield was chosen since it is located close to the valley of the Vistula River, one of the most important pathways of birds' migration. The main aim of this project was to develop methods of aircraft protection against threats from birds. The studies were carried out using two methods. One by transect and the other one by selected sector scanning. During the research, it was recorded, that 104 species of birds in the number about of 36000 were observed. The most frequent ones were starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (31.0%), jackdaw *Corvus monedula* (18.3%), rook *Corvus frugilegus* (15.9 %), lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (6.2%). Moreover it was found, that starlings constituted the most serious threat. It resulted from their relatively high attendance at the runway (about 300 individuals). Possible repellent techniques concerning of the Deblin military airfield were discussed. The analysis of the birds concentration depending on the altitude, part of the day, year, part of the airfield constituted a base to work out critical flight phase and appropriate procedures to prevent bird strikes.