

Closing Remarks

Bruce MacKinnon

I would like to introduce Kirsten, who is representing Carol Liber. They've done a lot of the organizational work here. Teri Heard, from the hotel. She has coordinated this event on behalf of the hotel. And also Dave Ball, who has done all the work, particularly the field trip logistics and so on. So if we could all give a hand to these folks.

Applause

I think we've got a lot of momentum here and I hope we can maintain it until the next time we meet. We're prepared to offer Calgary in 2001. So if you folks are interested, we'll try to work that out. Dr. Richard Dolbeer would now like to close the thing off. Thank you.

Applause

Richard Dolbeer

The growth in interest and participation in this type of meeting has been rather remarkable during this decade. I think in light of the last paper this growth in participation that pretty much correlates with the growth in the Canada Goose population in the United States and Canada over the past ten years. There has been, as a theme of this whole conference, a growth of populations of birds and in air traffic. And we have a much more complex problem than we used to have in dealing with these birds. I also would like to thank especially Dave Ball and Craig Richmond of the Vancouver International Airport for hosting this conference. I know all the work they've been doing over the past nine or ten months to put this together. It's been a lot of work and it was a wonderful conference in a great location. I would also like to urge everyone to fill out their evaluation forms if they have not done so and get those to Bruce. Those are very important. I know from past meetings, they've been very helpful in guiding us in new directions for our conference. The one thing that pleases me the most is the growth in these meetings in the mix of the participants. You know when we started this back in 1991, it was almost all USDA, Wildlife Services biologists and the US Air Force BASH team. And we were just sitting there preaching back to one another. As the years have gone by we have seen a greater mix of airport operations people, engine manufacturers and the airlines. This year with both American Airlines and Northwest being in attendance I think was a real important breakthrough. Because a really important part of this conference is getting the word out to the airport operator and to the airlines and to the engine manufacturers of what is available out there with regard to technologies that we can use in minimizing bird strikes. And just as importantly, what technologies or techniques are not worthwhile. This conference has generated, as any good conference does, a lot of questions. Grass height is a good example. I hope we can stimulate some people to do more research. I've already received some feedback from people who want to do experiments with regard to vegetation types and grass height on airports. This is wonderful because we need those data. And we'll continue with that. This good mixing of attendees is very important, and I hope in future meetings we can continue to draw in people from the airports, the operations people and their supervisors, who are really the people in the trenches. Without their dedication and knowledge and skill, which this meeting helps to build, no matter what our toys are, our gimmicks out there, bird control on airports will not be effective. The final thing I would say then is for next year's meeting we're planning to go to Minnesota, to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. John Ostrom, who gave a nice presentation the other day, has agreed for their airport to be the host airport. It will probably be the second week of August in the year 2000. It will probably be back to a format we've used in the USA, a three-day meeting, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I'm looking for a theme for that meeting. Perhaps, Minneapolis as the heartland of the Canada Goose, then maybe something with Canada Geese could be a theme. If anybody has any input in that way, it would be much appreciated. These are decisions that we will finalize soon and we will have things out on our webpage for that, and I might mention, finally, we do have a Bird Strike Committee USA webpage. Todd Curtis talked about it

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yesterday and it's simply birdstrike.org. We'll be updating the particulars on next year's conference with that very soon. With that, that's all I have to say. Luit Buurma also has something to say. Luit is the chairperson of the International Bird Strike Committee. Thank you everyone for a great meeting.

Applause

Luit Buurma

Well, I have nothing to add to that, but on behalf of the non-American and Canadian participants, to thank you for this very good meeting. But maybe there is an addition. We have something like International Bird Strike Committee. That is a very informal, but nevertheless already existing for thirty-five years, gathering of people, a group of friends maybe, that has been in the past quite successful. And now we are facing the problem how to proceed in the future. Because in America there is a huge growth of attendance and it seems that ICAO is really being forced to upgrade regulations to standards maybe. That means that we need to use this process, but at the same time we have to realize that we can't have only safe airports in America. If your flight goes to Kenya, it should also be safe there. There are other countries with other responsibilities. There must be some sort of a chain of contacts all over the world. And we are now discussing how to organize this in the future. There is the history. You have heard Vice Chairman John Allan several times. There's a lot of information already existing for tens of years. We have to make sure that this information is combined with the new, more business like approach, which is now apparently occurring here. So if you wish to join this discussion I would ask you to look for the new website. It is under construction at the moment. It is not yet anything. But it is claimed. The first thing that will be there is a description of our discussion about the future. If you would like to join the discussion, you can start to do it by internet. But if you would like to have influence you have to come to the next meeting. Because we have no playing rules other than the ones we are making during these two year conferences. It will be in Amsterdam in the centre of the city. More information will become available soon. So once again, thank you and I hope to see you in Holland.

Applause