

full-time staff at three military sites where comprehensive services are provided. Programs at U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps airbases are recognized nationally within their respective service branches as model programs both by WS and military personnel. As part of these programs, personnel provide services to military air bases in foreign countries. The program also continues to work with the USDA, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center and Smithsonian Institute Bird Identification Laboratory on new research initiatives and DNA data collection.

(P19) WILDLIFE HAZARD MANAGEMENT AT ARIZONA AIRPORTS

USDA, Wildlife Services, Arizona Airport Safety Program, 8836 N. 23rd Avenue, Suite 2, Phoenix, Arizona 85201 USA

Under Congressional mandate, Wildlife Biologists and Specialists with the USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (WS) program in Arizona (AZ) work with numerous airports throughout the state of Arizona to reduce hazards associated with wildlife strikes to aircraft. Hazard reduction efforts focus on the airfield and in several critical zones surrounding the airfield requiring the cooperation of many federal, state, and private entities. A diversity of wildlife can be found in the Arizona airport environment. Commonly found birds include doves, pigeons, blackbirds, birds of prey, corvids, and wading birds. Additionally, mammals such as prairie dogs, ground squirrels, coyotes, cats, rabbits, and bats are commonly observed at Arizona airports. AZ WS has full and part-time personnel specifically trained to manage wildlife hazards in airport environments using a variety of techniques including: exclusion, dispersal, lethal and nonlethal removal, and habitat modification. WS personnel also provide assistance in the form of recommendations and guidance and assistance is provided to airports and the aviation industry to increase wildlife strike reporting. AZ WS personnel are also equipped with the knowledge and experience to train airport personnel to identify potentially hazardous wildlife in and around the airport.