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A Revolution in Wildlife Management

Greg Winfield

President, Winfield Solutions, Frankford, Ontario, sales@winfieldsolutions.com

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A Revolution in Wildlife Management

Greg Winfield, President, Winfield Solutions PO Box 578, Frankford, On, Canada K0K 2C0

Phone 1-613-398-1221 Fax 1-613-398-8649 Email winsol@reach.net www.winfieldsolutions.com

At past Bird Strike Conferences, the need for having a good database to track and analyze wildlife activities has been expressed. Sadly, most airports/wildlife contractors still depend on archaic log sheets. At best, some have tapped into the limited capability of spreadsheets.

Limiting yourself to this method severely restricts your abilities to track activities effectively. And if the data isn't available then you cannot make informed decisions. Toronto's Pearson International Airport's Field Superintendent John Meehan put it best by saying...

"I cannot imagine any airport trying to oversee wildlife initiatives without an effective data analysis tool...it would be meaningless..."

If you do not have accurate, timely data like John says, then how can you realistically determine **Threat Assessments, Hazard Analysis, Trends, Primary Attractants, Deterrent Success rates or Geographical Hot Spots** to name a few. And if you cannot produce data results such as these then how can you take effective measures? Is spending X amount of dollars on a spray program really making a difference? Or keeping the grass in a particular area an inch shorter really better? Maybe your efforts are good, but did it spark another situation somewhere else? How do you track dynamics such as these?

I have developed a software program that specifically addresses these problems. AIRMAN (Animal Interdiction Report Manager) is a complete stand-alone program that reports on all aspects of wildlife intervention and stores this information in a modern Relational Database. All wildlife encountered, its surrounding variables, equipment and methods used are recorded on one simple data entry screen.

Once the data is entered, AIRMAN can recall this data and produce a host of professional reports that allow you to make informed decisions. All reports and query engines have unrestricted date ranges to report on. Everything is consistent because all data comes from the same reliable source. This means no integrity errors.

You have full control over what you want to see. You can predefine report headers to explain the nature of the report such as Annual, Migratory, Special (ie. Anywhere Airport Annual Strike Report). Here are a few of the reports available....

Demographic Report – This is a digitized overhead snapshot of your airfield overlaid with all your interventions and sightings. This shows you immediately where your "hotspots" are.

Attractant Report – This report lists all the Attractants and cross-references them against the species you've encountered. It effectively spots the troublemakers.

Dispersal Report – This report lists all your Dispersal Methods and cross-references them against the species you've encountered. It effectively spots what's most common and whether or not it's an effective method.

Trend Reports – Examines the trends of all categories or a single species over any time period.

Strike, Killed, Trapped, Encountered Reports – These are summary reports designed to track the counts on an interval basis e.g. weekly, monthly and annual reports. Or pick your own time frame.

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Statistical Analysis Report - This report gives you an overview of your activities over any time period you select. Statistical information includes but is not limited to:

- Total Strikes
- Strike Probability % based on A/C movements
- Total Interventions
- Total numbers encountered
- Average Interventions per day
- Average numbers encountered during each intervention
- Earliest and latest times of wildlife encountered
- Highest and lowest temperatures when wildlife encountered.

Note: Many reports come with graphs and pie charts for ease of analysis.

Query Engines – These engines are designed to retrieve data tailored to what you wish to see. In other words you filter down based on the parameters you specify. Here are some examples:

“Show me only the gull counts on Rwy 24 between May and July when the attractant was bugs?

Or

“How many interventions did we have on Rwy 24L versus Rwy 24R from 2pm to 9pm?”

Thus the question - Can spreadsheets answer these types of questions?

AIRMAN DOES!

As you read, I'm confident you're realizing AIRMAN gives you the detailed analysis tools you need to understand any species you deal with. This translates into....

Time and Money Saved - Wildlife Officers don't need to spend valuable time sifting through daily log sheets to draft end month reports. AIRMAN allows them to be more effective by being where they are paid to be - on the airfield.

Immediate Data Recall - All statistics, counts and activities at your fingertips.

Consistent, Professional Reports - Standardized data ensures no integrity errors.

Scientific Integrity - Extremely accurate recording and reporting approach that follows scientific standards.

A Voice of Authority - You have the data to back up your statements and ideas.

Airfield Awareness - You know what's happening on your airfield. What the trends are. Which species are dominant, what their chief Attractant is as well as the most successful Dispersal methods used against them.

Responsible Conservation - Meticulously recording and reporting on all wildlife encountered and how you handled them.

In summary, AIRMAN arms you with a powerful tool to make sound predictions and implement proactive plans, which in the long run saves time and money. Are you spending wisely?

Greg Winfield

President

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