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Bridging the general aviation gap: Building parity with certificated airports in wildlife strike research

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Abstract. General aviation (GA) airports in the United States are encouraged to, but not mandated to adhere to the same wildlife management requirements as Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificated airports. The bulk of aircraft-wildlife strike data in the FAA National Wildlife Strike Database (NWSDB) comes from certificated airports. In addition, the majority of research on wildlife management at airports is conducted at or focused on certificated airports. These reasons lead to a gap in the understanding of wildlife at general aviation airports. The research proposed in this project seeks to determine: (1) which wildlife species use the GA airport environment; (2) the contributing ecological and human cultural factors for wildlife presence at GA airports; and (3) in the absence of GA airport data from the NWSDB, determine the probability of a strike occurring at a GA airport. Through this research, gaining a foundational understanding of wildlife strikes at GA airports will help build parity with research at certificated airports.
