

**Table 30 FAA Wildlife Strike Database Summary Records for Houston OAPM Airports
(1990 – June 2012)**

Airport ¹	Strikes ²	Species ³ (common name)	Height (ft. AGL)
George Bush Intercontinental/Houston (IAH)	824	Bald Eagle, Swallows, Blackbirds, Geese, Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, Cedar Waxwing, Nighthawks, Doves, Meadowlark, Starling, Finches, Grackles, Gulls, Killdeer, Sparrows, Purple Martin, Red-tailed Hawk, Upland Sandpiper, Flycatchers	0-15,500
William P. Hobby (HOU)	951	Least Tern, Crows, Kestrel, Plover, Redstart, Robin, Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Swallows, Blackbirds, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, Swifts, Nighthawks, Doves, Ducks, Starlings, Grackles, Catbirds, Gulls, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Killdeer, Tern, Shrike, Merlin, Mockingbird, Orioles, Sanderlings, Upland Sandpiper, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Brazilian Free-tailed Bat, Fruit Bat, Vesper Bats	0-12,000
Houston Southwest (AXH)	2	Unknown bird – Medium	0 -2,000
Lone Star Executive (CXO)	3	Turkey Vulture, Unknown bird – small	0 -1,000
David Wayne Hooks Memorial (DWH)	24	Doves, Sparrows, Crows, Vulture	10-5,500
Ellington Field (EFD)	100	Kestrel, Anhinga, Barn Owl, Swallows, Cattle Egret, Flycatcher, Doves, Ducks, Gulls, Hawks, Horned Larks, Killdeer, Meadowlark, Nighthawk, Sparrow, Vulture, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Bats	0-3,500
Scholes International (GLS)	14	Least Tern, Gulls (various), Brown Pelican, Rock Pigeon	0-10,000
West Houston (IWS)	1	Unknown bird – Medium	2,500
Texas Gulf Coast Regional (LBX)	2	Vulture	900-1,000
Pearland Regional (LVJ)	1	American Crow	500
Sugar Land Regional (SGR)	12	Doves, Sparrows, Yellow-crowned Night Heron	0-800
Houston Executive (TME)	13	Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Yellow Bat, Savannah Sparrow, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	n/a ⁴
Weiser Air Park (EYQ)	0	no reported strikes	n/a
Baytown (HPY)	0	no reported strikes	n/a
Chambers County (T00)	0	no reported strikes	n/a
La Porte Municipal (T41)	0	no reported strikes	n/a
RWJ Airpark (54T)	0	no reported strikes	n/a
Notes:			
1. Data used for IAH, HOU, AXH, CXO, DWH, EFD, GLS, IWS, LBX, LVJ, SGR, and TME. No strikes reported for EYQ, HPY, T00, T41, and 54T. This table presents strike data for all 17 airports affected by the Proposed Action.			
2. Total number of strikes, even if species or altitude were unknown or not reported			
3. Summary list of the most common avian and bat species found in the database			
4. For TME, only one incident included altitude information. That strike occurred as the aircraft landed on the runway.			
Source: http://wildlife-mitigation.tc.faa.gov/wildlife/default.aspx (accessed August 30, 2012; last reported incident June 29, 2012)			

This analysis involved a review of arrival and departure flight tracks for the Houston OAPM Airports for the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative. Additionally, the altitude of flight tracks above and below 2,500 ft. AGL were reviewed, because research has documented that 88 percent of all wildlife strikes nationwide occur below 2,500 ft. AGL.¹⁷³ The FAA compared modifications in flight procedures to the occurrence of species and populations of concern to assess if existing wildlife strike reports might change under the Proposed Action.

5.9.3 Potential Impacts

The Proposed Action would not involve acquisition, construction, or other land disturbing activities. Therefore, impacts to fish, plants, terrestrial wildlife, or their habitats would not occur. The FAA considered the potential impacts of the Proposed Action relative to existing wildlife strikes and changes in strikes based on modified flight procedures.

Wildlife Strikes

Since 1990, the FAA has compiled reports of wildlife strikes with aircraft. The information is available to the public through the National Wildlife Strikes Database¹⁷⁴ and through analysis prepared in an annual report.¹⁷⁵ The Wildlife Strike Database reported 119,917 wildlife strikes nationally over a 22-year period between 1990 and 2011. Birds represent 97.1 percent of all strikes. Of those, 88 percent of strikes affecting commercial civil aircraft have occurred below 2,500 ft. AGL and 92 percent occurred below 3,500 ft. AGL. The Wildlife Strike Database reports that gulls have the highest occurrence of strikes (16%), followed by doves/pigeons (15%).

The Wildlife Strike Database enables research and information collection for strikes, reportable by airport, including species struck, height of strike, and type and extent of aircraft damage, although not all reports provide complete information. The Wildlife Strike Database reports 1,947 strikes at Houston OAPM Airports. One of the limitations of the data is that not all reports provide the full complement of available information. For example, 68 percent of the recorded bird strikes for the Houston OAPM Airports from 1990 through June 2012 did not identify the affected species. However, there are 623 reports at the Houston OAPM Airports that include species identification and are available for analysis. Table 30 provides information on wildlife strikes reported by the Houston OAPM Airports for data available from 1990 through June 30, 2012.¹⁷⁶

¹⁷³ FAA, "FAA Wildlife Strike Database": <http://wildlife-mitigation.tc.faa.gov/wildlife/default.aspx> (accessed June 22, 2012).

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ FAA, "Wildlife Strikes to Civil Aircraft in the United States 1990-2011," *Federal Aviation Administration National Wildlife Strike Database Serial Report, no. 18*, July 2012.

¹⁷⁶ FAA, "FAA Wildlife Strike Database": <http://wildlife-mitigation.tc.faa.gov/wildlife/database.aspx>. (At the time data of download for this EA, the database included 136,648 Strike Reports from 1/1/1990 through 6/30/2012.)