

# BSC USA Committee Role, Composition, and Goals *-Lessons Learned-*

ICAO Wildlife Hazard Reduction Symposium

Montreal, Canada

May 16 – 18, 2017

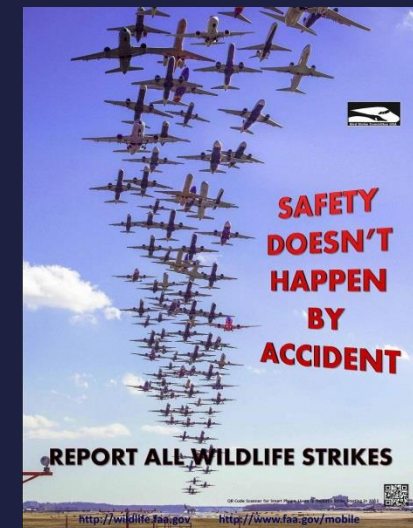
Sarah Brammell, Chair BSC USA



Bird Strike Committee USA

# History of the Committee

- ◆ 1991 - BSC USA was established
  - ◆ First Chair – Jim Forbes, USDA/WS
  - ◆ FAA, USDA, US. Airports, USAF
- ◆ 1991 - Started Annual Meetings
- ◆ 1997 - Committee By-laws
- ◆ 1999 - Joint Meetings with Canada
- ◆ 2012 - MOU with FAA
- ◆ Evolution of the Steering Committee
  - ◆ Diversity in stakeholders represented
  - ◆ Leadership succession



Bird Strike Committee USA

# Committee Role: ICAO and FAA

## ✦ ICAO

ICAO recommends each nation form a Bird Strike Committee to advise the Civil Aviation Authority -

Doc 9137 - Airport Services Manual Part 3, Wildlife Control and Reduction, 4th Edition 2012



## ✦ 2012 FAA-BSC USA MOU

“This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a cooperative relationship between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Bird Strike Committee USA (BSC-USA). The purpose of the partnership is to provide technical expertise and assistance to the FAA to help mitigate wildlife hazards to aviation.



Bird Strike Committee USA

# Mission & Composition

- ✦ BSC USA is dedicated to providing leadership in managing wildlife hazards to aviation.

- ✦ Membership Categories

- ✦ Federal Aviation Administration
- ✦ U.S. Department of Agriculture/APHIS/WS
- ✦ U.S. Department of Defense
- ✦ U.S. Airports
- ✦ Private Sector Services
- ✦ Airlines
- ✦ Aerospace Industries
- ✦ General



Bird Strike Committee USA

# 5 Principal Objectives

1. Facilitate the exchange of information regarding the characteristics and management of wildlife hazards and risk to aviation safety ...
2. Promote the collection and analysis of accurate wildlife strike data for military and civil aviation in the USA to better:
  - ◆ understand strike hazards and risk,
  - ◆ promote and develop effective and appropriate programs and
  - ◆ evaluate the efficacy of management programs.



# 5 Principal Objectives

3. Promote research and development of effective procedures, methods, and technologies for reducing aviation wildlife hazards and risk to aviation safety.
4. Promote professionalism in wildlife management programs on and near airports through training and advocacy of high standards of conduct for airport biologists and wildlife patrol personnel.
5. Serve as the national expert body and liaison to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), national/international Bird Strike Committees and other organizations.



# Lessons Learned – Committee Structure

- ◆ 274 current BSC USA members
- ◆ Steering Committee
  - ◆ 30 voting positions
  - ◆ Established leadership succession
- ◆ 6 Standing Committees
  - ◆ Membership
  - ◆ Annual Conference
  - ◆ Communications
  - ◆ Research and Development
  - ◆ Operations and Policy
  - ◆ Education and Outreach



# Lessons Learned – Website

✦ [www.birdstrike.org](http://www.birdstrike.org)



The screenshot shows the Bird Strike Committee USA website. At the top left is the BSC USA logo, a stylized white bird/plane silhouette on a dark background, with the text "Bird Strike Committee USA" below it. To the right of the logo is the tagline "DEDICATED TO PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN MANAGING WILDLIFE HAZARDS TO AVIATION". Below the logo is a large blue banner for the "2017 NORTH AMERICAN BIRD STRIKE CONFERENCE" with the subtitle "From Local Partnerships to Global Safety" and the dates "AUGUST 22-24, 2017 | DALLAS, TEXAS | UNITED STATES". Below the banner is a yellow call-to-action box: "Call for Poster and Photo Contest Entries coming soon! Get your ideas and cameras ready!". Below that is a paragraph of text about the organization's mission and a list of partner organizations including the Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, U.S. Airports, Private Sector Services, Airlines, and Aerospace Industry. At the bottom of the main content area is a paragraph about the estimated damage and risk from bird strikes. On the right side of the website is a sidebar with a search bar, social media links for Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, a "JOIN BSC" button, a "REPORT A STRIKE" button, and a navigation menu with links for Home, About BSC, The Committee, Committee Blog, By Laws, History/Archives, Conference, Bird Strike Committee Proceedings, Poster Contest, Photo Contest, Wildlife Strikes & Mitigation Resources, Federal Regulations/Guidance, Research & Publications, Smithsonian Feather & DNA Lab, and Species Identification.

Quick link for  
Membership

Quick link for  
Reporting a Wildlife  
Strike

Quick links for  
Resources

Sign up for Newsletter  
via Email



# Bird Strike Committee USA



# Lessons Learned – Newsletter

## ✦ Bird Strike Buzz



### Bird Strike Buzz

Fall/Winter 2016 Volume 3, No. 2

**In this issue:**

- 1 From the Chair: Building a Future on the Foundation of our Past
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- 3 Lifetime Achievement Award: Sandra Wright
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- 5 100th Anniversary of Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- 6 2016 Conference Poster and Photo Contest Winners

**FROM THE CHAIR: BUILDING A FUTURE ON THE FOUNDATION OF OUR PAST**

Dear BSC USA members and readers,

As the new Chair of Bird Strike Committee USA (BSC USA), I first want to say thank you for the support and kind words during the chairmanship transition that took place at the BSC USA Conference held in Chicago last August. I consider it a privilege to Chair this exceptional group of professionals that represents a wide spectrum of wildlife hazard management stakeholders.

The group has certainly grown and evolved since I joined the Steering Committee almost 10 years ago. The committee has taken great strides in providing education and outreach to the industry; developing technical comments and input related to FAA guidance, environmental regulations and rulings; and promoting the continual exchange of information at the annual meeting and through outreach materials such as this newsletter and the BSC USA website. These efforts have set us on a course to fulfill our principal objectives and build on these experiences to address the ever-changing environment in which we do our work. (The BSC USA principle objectives are listed on page 2, just in case the committee's by-laws haven't made your must-read shortlist!)

I believe that to effectively plan for the future, we should have a clear understanding of where we have been and what has been accomplished to date. I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to thank Mike Bogler (Immediate Past-Chair), John Weller (Vice-Chair) and the Steering and Standing Committee Members (current and past) for their commitment to this volunteer organization. It has been through your efforts that we build the foundation of the committee and are now able to set our sights on the future. As we move forward with planning our efforts for 2017 and beyond, I hope we can build on the solid foundation in place and take steps to better document our activities and archives, increase our involvement in research initiatives, develop efficient processes to maximize the efforts of volunteers, promote our role as the national expert liaison group to FAA, and continue to grow our membership.

As a volunteer group, we are only as strong as our members. For members and new readers alike, please take a moment to read our principal objectives (see insert on next page). We welcome new ideas, strategies, and tools to fulfill these objectives and promote member participation on our Standing Committees:

- Membership
- Communications
- Operations/Policy
- Annual Conference
- Research and Development
- Education and Outreach

The work of the committee is completed primarily through the Standing Committees. If you are interested in providing support to any of these focus areas, please contact us at [bscusa@gmail.com](mailto:bscusa@gmail.com). I look forward to working with the membership to continue the great work that has been accomplished and encourage a path forward that focuses our efforts in promoting our principal objectives.

Sarah Brammell  
Chair, Bird Strike Committee USA

BSC USA Website

Check out our website for regulatory information, guidance and conference proceedings at: <http://www.bscusa.org/>

Like Us On  [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/birdstrikeusa)

[www.facebook.com/birdstrikeusa](https://www.facebook.com/birdstrikeusa)



### Bird Strike Buzz – News from Bird Strike Committee USA

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: SANDRA WRIGHT, MANAGER, FAA NATIONAL WILDLIFE STRIKE DATABASE (1996-2015)**

Michael A. Dolbow, Past Chair (1997-2007)

Sandra (Sandy) E. Wright, a native of Chicago, received her bachelor's degree in education from Northern Illinois University and her master's degree in education from Chicago State University. With a true love of nature and aviation, she has been a member of the local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association in Ohio and has co-piloted on countless trips in a Piper Cherokee.

Sandy was hired by the Department of Agriculture in Sandusky, Ohio in 1996 to manage the National Wildlife Strike Database (NWSD) through an interagency agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). With her knowledge of birds and aviation combined with adept computer and editing skills and a keen attention to detail, she was able to organize all wildlife strikes reported to the FAA starting in 1996 and accurately enter them into a database. Each report has over 50 data fields. She built the database from 1,800 reports in 1996 to 14,000 reports entered in 2015 when she retired (170,000 reports total for 1990-2015).

The number of strikes entered into the database is indeed impressive, but the most important accomplishment during Sandy's 20-year tenure was her ability to manage the quality and consistency of the data. Because of these efforts and accomplishments, this public database now provides a scientific foundation for 31 FAA regulatory policies and guidance to manage the risk of bird strikes within the aviation industry, 21 designing improvements by engine and aircraft manufacturers to minimize damage and risk by bird strikes, and 31 species-specific wildlife risk mitigation plans developed by airports and air carriers to enhance aviation safety. Additionally, the NWSD contains a wealth of information of use to many fields of basic and applied ornithological research, as well as other areas of aviation safety.

In addition to managing the database, Sandy worked closely with personnel from a broad spectrum of the aviation industry, including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), to reduce the wildlife threat at airports. She wrote numerous articles and made presentations to promote an awareness of the need for accurately reporting wildlife strikes and to demonstrate how the database was tangibly improving aviation safety.



Photo courtesy of Richard Dolbow

During her tenure, Sandy made significant contributions to aviation safety and science-based wildlife management at airports that will continue for future generations. Bird Strike Committee USA recognized these accomplishments by presenting Sandy with the James E. Forbes Lifetime Achievement Award during the annual conference in Chicago last August. May Sandy and her husband, Gene, have long, productive retirements with their nature-based photography business!



Ohio's Lifetime Photo  
Photo courtesy of Richard Dolbow

**2016 Poster and Photo Contest**

The Bird Strike Committee USA is pleased to announce the opening of the poster and photo contests to promote education and awareness of this year's conference theme, "One Community, No Boundaries". Entries must be received by 11:59 pm U.S. Central Standard Time, July 15, 2016.

Click [here](#) for contest guidance and entry forms.



### Bird Strike Buzz – News from Bird Strike Committee USA

**TORTOISES AT ORLANDO SANFORD**

John R. Weller

FAA Advisory Circular 150/5370-15B has been identified as a critical airport property with multiple benefits, such as providing maintenance costs and attractive vegetative food sources ermined that research was necessary to assess artificial turf as growing behavior of gopher tortoises on the airport property.

enrollment Branch entered into an agreement with Orlando Sanford a study on the applicability of artificial turf to the RSA to mitigate the presence of burrowing gopher tortoises. The study also investigated stand exposure to harsh environmental conditions and the occasional, high was tested by using a specialized vehicle retrofitted with an aircraft at the approach end of Runway 18 was selected as the test site, and company 2014. Data was collected between May 1, 2014 and April 30, 2015. re and directed studies demonstrated that artificial turf is compatible environmental factors, is not attractive to other hazardous species, ne not exhibit detrimental reduced braking during aircraft or vehicle illial turf performed well during the occasional passage by operational and firefighting vehicles.

[enrollment Branch Safety Papers Publications Database/Details/View/2544/ORLANDO-SANFORD-INTERNATIONAL-AIRPORT](#)



Photo courtesy of FAA

A gopher tortoise is measured at Orlando Sanford International Airport

**HAT'S IN A NAME?**

essential to taxonomic species? Can't we just as we get here at the Smithsonian Feather

ion cases a year, the Feather ID Lab has seen a noted on strike reports. Sometimes a house ated, killed), and sometimes it is a case of and Louisa). But the more casual bird identified. From the field are usually common that descriptor, can have different meanings.

name we see at the Lab is "Tazard". For us bird (Photo below), which is a raptor found in Europe culture. While describing a bird struck by a plane strike, distinguishing between the Turkey culture Congress is important for understanding differences in ecology associated with these birds.

that can mean different things "blackbird" for Bird description—a bird that is black? Could the vireo, which is a bird found in the eastern U.S. us, or the "blackbird" brown-headed cowbird, a bird species that many consider a nuisance.

reported from the northeastern U.S. in which it can be tricky to identify on a good day. We erred at the airport did a great job of disinc if they could for this case. Our final ID was a which is native to Asia and looks similar to a It was confirmed that the aircraft had taken 100% more than they occurred on take-off.

Encourage you from making notes on a bird ID species or bird activity observed. The Lab see any, and we always consider the notes made by field personnel carefully. Stating that a bird was probably a "Tazard" is fine. This is just a reminder of the value and variety of information that a specific bird name can provide. In addition, using standardized taxonomic names helps to keep the database consistent and accurate. While we enjoy the occasional bird ID of "Fred" or "Puncher goose", the Smithsonian Feather ID Lab will continue to do its best to provide the most specific bird identifications possible.



Smithsonian Institution



Turkey culture with common  
Photo courtesy of Matry Haecker



Black vireo  
Photo courtesy of GPTW



Rusty blackbird  
Photo courtesy of USFWS



Brown-headed cowbird  
Photo courtesy of USFWS

# Bird Strike Committee USA

# Lessons Learned – Social Media

- ✦ Staying connected and sharing information

The screenshot shows the Facebook profile of the Bird Strike Committee USA. The profile picture is a stylized black and white graphic of a hand holding a bird. The page name is 'Bird Strike Committee USA' with the handle '@BirdstrikeUSA'. A post from April 24 at 9:36 am is featured, titled 'Feathers And Snarge: Identifying What's Left After Birds And Planes Collide - Science Friday'. The post includes a photo of several people in a laboratory setting examining bird specimens on a table. The text of the post reads: 'There's a CSI lab for birds that strike airplanes. The species that hits most often? Not the one you'd guess.' Below the post are interaction options like Like, Comment, and Share, and a notification that 'You, Amy Reed, Jenny Mastantuono and 23 others' have interacted. The right side of the page shows a 'Send Message' button, 'Community Organization' information, and a list of 'People Also Like' including CorJo Wildlife Produc..., American Falconry ma..., and Utah Merlin Meet.



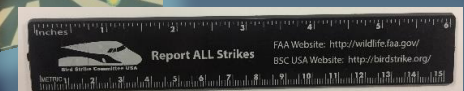
Bird Strike Committee USA

# Lessons Learned – Education & Outreach

## ◆ Booth and Materials



2017 BSC USA Sun n Fun Air Show = Outreach



# Bird Strike Committee USA

# Lessons Learned – Education & Outreach

## ✦ BSC USA Education Event List:

- August 8-11, 2016 – BSC USA Conference, Chicago, IL
- August 17-19 2016 – NAOC Conference, Washington, DC – Booth and ½ day workshop
- August 22-25, 2016 – ALPA Safety Forum Washington, DC – Booth (Outreach and Education)
- November 3-4, 2016 – Australian Aviation Wildlife Hazard Group Forum (R.Dolbeer presenting)
- November 15-16, 2016 – WBSE-2 Conference, Tamachi, Tokyo (S. Osmek presenting)
- December 5-9, 2016 – WBA Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands (Presentation from BSC USA)
- March 6-9, 2017 – BSC Booth HAI Heli Expo - Dallas, TX
- April 4-5, 2017 – BSC USA Mid-Winter Meeting, Orlando International Airport
- April 4-9, 2017 – BSC Booth Sun-N-Fun Air Show (Outreach and Education)
- **May 16-18, 2017 – ICAO/ACI Wildlife Strike Hazard Reduction Symposium (Attendance by BSC USA)**
- July 24-30, 2017 – BSC USA Booth OSHKOSH Air Show (Education and Outreach)
- August 22-24 – North American BSC Conference, Dallas, TX
- September 2017 – Brazilian Wildlife Hazard Conference “Aerofauna” (R. Dolbeer keynote)



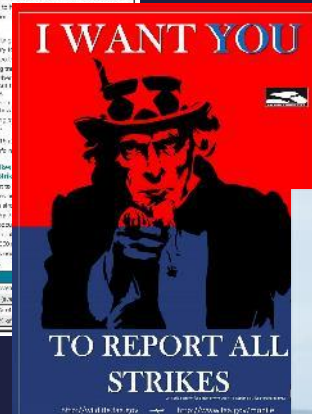
# Lessons Learned – Annual Conference

- ✦ Diversity of Topics – Submitted abstracts and invited speakers
- ✦ Offering a training session
- ✦ Registration Fees & Per Diem
- ✦ Conference Assistance - AAAE



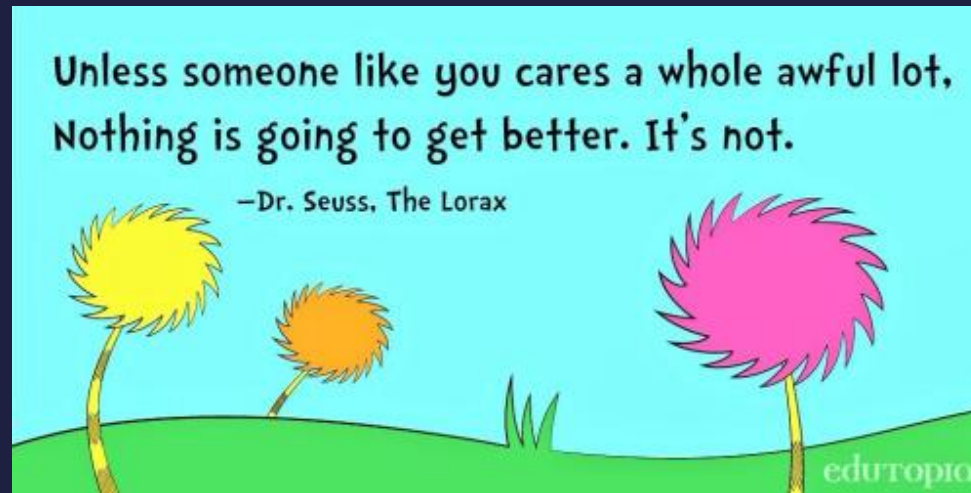
# Lessons Learned - History

- ◆ The importance of our history (archives) and the institutional knowledge from our Emeritus Members



# Lessons Learned

- ✦ Diversity in a group has its challenges.
- ✦ Focus all of the committee's business and activities on meeting the mission and 5 principal objects.
- ✦ Remembering the entire committee is comprised of volunteers.



Bird Strike Committee USA

Thank you!



**2017 NORTH AMERICAN  
BIRD STRIKE**  
CONFERENCE *From Local Partnerships to Global Safety*  
AUGUST 22-24, 2017 | DALLAS, TEXAS | UNITED STATES

The banner features a blue background with a white silhouette of a cowboy hat on the left. In the center, a flock of white birds is shown flying over a white map of North America. To the right, there are logos for the FAA, the Bird Strike Committee - USA, and the AAE. A white airplane tail is visible on the far right, with a white arrow pointing left towards the map.

Hope to see you in Dallas, Texas  
August 22-24, 2017



Bird Strike Committee USA