

Ashley Alvarez (GPA)

From: Ashley Alvarez (GPA)
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 1:30 PM
To: 'WILMUNEN, BRYAN L GS 12 USAF AETC 502 ABW/SEF'; KING, LEMITCHEL R CIV USAF AETC 502 ABW/502 ABW OL B/PA; Anderson, John H CIV USAF 502 ABW (USA); Jones, Danny A.; WITT, TRAVIS K GS 13 USAF 502 ABW 502 AIR BASE WG/502 ABW/CI; KUBIAK, BRIANNA L CIV USAF AETC 502 ABW/SEF/USAF; Bill Pennell (Parks); Juan Ayala (GPA); bruce.r.leland@usda.gov; brianna.l.kubiak@aphis.usda.gov; Lear, Keith L CIV USAF 502 ABW (USA)
Subject: RE: Notes and Update from 15 Mar, Cattle Egret/Elmendorf Lake Park
Attachments: Bird mitigation FAQ.docx

Wil,

Thanks for sending these numbers this is very helpful. Juan has an interview with TPR (different reporter) this Thursday so he and I will go over these before we sit down with the reporter. We'll let you all know how it goes.

We'll also get an updated news release circulated to the group when we get some clear direction on public input plans from GPA's director. We're hoping to meet with him tomorrow. He has been in Austin the last few weeks for the Legislative Session.

I've developed a FAQ sheet (attached) let me know what you all think.

Thank you,
Ashley

From: WILMUNEN, BRYAN L GS-12 USAF AETC 502 ABW/SEF [mailto:bryan.wilmunen.1@us.af.mil]
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 12:17 PM
To: Ashley Alvarez (GPA); KING, LEMITCHEL R CIV USAF AETC 502 ABW/502 ABW OL-B/PA; Anderson, John H CIV USAF 502 ABW (USA); Jones, Danny A.; WITT, TRAVIS K GS-13 USAF 502 ABW 502 AIR BASE WG/502 ABW/CI; KUBIAK, BRIANNA L CIV USAF AETC 502 ABW/SEF/USAF; Bill Pennell (Parks); Juan Ayala (GPA); bruce.r.leland@usda.gov; brianna.l.kubiak@aphis.usda.gov; Lear, Keith L CIV USAF 502 ABW (USA)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Notes and Update from 15 Mar, Cattle Egret/Elmendorf Lake Park

All,

From my meeting notes, somebody wanted an update on what the risk specifically entails with regard to exposure, probability, and severity. I agree the focus is on reducing the possibility of a future catastrophe, but we also need to be on the same page when strikes are questioned. Here is what I sent to Texas Public Radio:

Kelly Field Total Wildlife Strikes, all species:

FY10	52	
FY11	49	
FY12	62	
FY13	52	
FY14	64	
FY15	40	
FY16*	69	*Runway was closed for repairs for two months in the spring of '16
FY17	61	

Takeaway: The total fluctuates considerably, but averages over 50. For the highest year on record, we had only 10 months of flying and missed the spring migration.

Cattle Egret Strikes:

Strikes	Date	Time	Species	Aircraft
1	02 Aug 2012	0930	Cattle Egret	F-16
5	22 Apr 2015	1645	Cattle Egret	C-5
1	05 May 2016	1230	Cattle Egret	Remains found on runway
1	18 Apr 2017	0750	Cattle Egret	Civil B-767

Takeaway: all times of day, flocks have been struck, many aircraft types (varying size and speed)

Based on these Kelly Field strike numbers for Cattle Egrets alone, there would be no reason to cause alarm with the species by itself. The difference in this case is the daily observation of the relatively predictable hazard, and one that should be addressed. That leads to an evaluation of risk for the identified hazard.

- Exposure: every day, twice a day or more when nesting; about 800 Cattle Egrets in large flocks pass through the north end-of-runway flight path (approach or departure); most noticeable at sunrise
- Probability: Approximately 100 aircraft pass through the north end-of-runway flight path daily
- Severity: Cattle Egret is a large bird, usually flocking to compound the bird mass, capable of destroying an aircraft by itself or in flocks. Endangered lives on the aircraft and on the ground where the aircraft might crash, destruction or damage of aircraft and/or ground property, facilities and equipment

Risk Assessment Support:

- The traffic count for JBSA-Kelly Field shows a year-long average of over 100 per day (takeoff, landing, touch-and-go, low approach); the number fluctuates day-to-day by about ± 40 or more (weekends, etc.).
- Depending on the time of year, about 800 (± 200 ?; we're still studying) make the trip from Elmendorf Lake park to Covel Gardens Landfill and back every day. The biologists say during breeding season, they make this trip several times per day to feed the young, each parent taking turns.
- For damage, the Cattle Egret ranks 11 in the top 50 list of wildlife to cause damage in the Air Force. It has destroyed one Air Force aircraft at Sheppard AFB on the 19th of July 2013. For perspective, here is what that looked like for them:

<http://www.kswo.com/story/22884189/t/>

<https://www.sheppard.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/639127/t-38-accident-investigation-complete/>

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Wichita-Falls-Braces-for-Return-of-Pesky-Egrets-254347161.html>

<https://www.texomashomepage.com/news/local-news/wf-residents-asked-to-report-cattle-egret-sightings/150741450>

<https://ucononline.com/2018/10/water-problem-solved-air-base-installs-massive-french-drain-system/>

<https://www.texomashomepage.com/news/local-news/past-crashes-involving-sheppard-air-force-base/1435136314>

Going forward:

More Media? Someone asked for the Media Advisory we worked on; attached is the most recent copy I have.

More surveys until June timeframe; possible FAQ to address common questions

August - September may present a window for habitat modification, to be determined by USDA

Take care,

- Wil

Bryan Wilmunen
502 ABW/SEF