

The Chart Page

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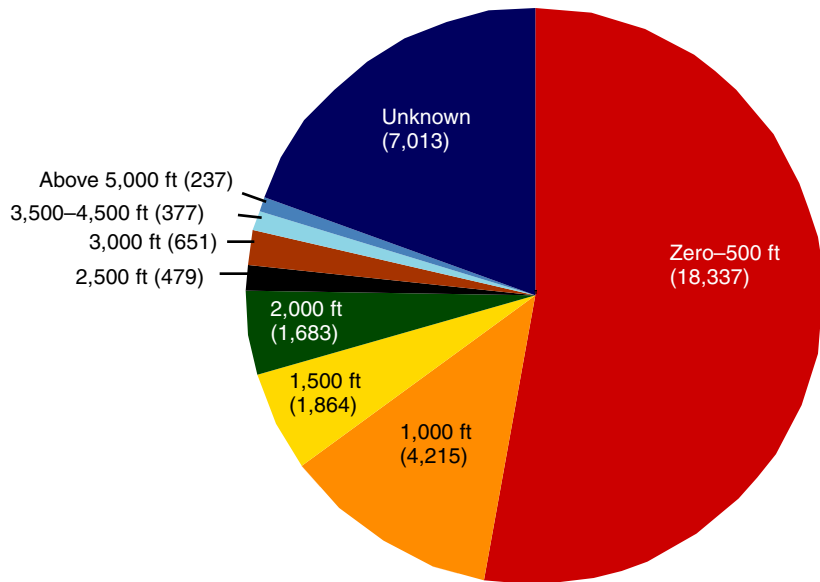
Bird Strike!

From January 1985 through February 1998, USAF aircraft sustained 34,856 bird strikes, ranging in seriousness from annoying to catastrophic. In the latter category, one would put the September 1995 loss of an E-3 AWACS aircraft and crew as a result of collisions with Canada geese during takeoff in Alaska.

The Air Force reports its aircraft average 2,600 bird strikes per year, at an average annual cost of \$38 million. Some warn that the problem is growing. Strikes have increased with the growth of bird populations, an outgrowth of vigorous enforcement of environmental and wildlife laws in recent decades.

At some bases, Air Force officials release falcons to drive off large flocks. Elsewhere, officials use remote-controlled model aircraft broadcasting bird of prey sounds to help clear the area of big birds.

Danger at All Altitudes
(USAF Bird Strikes, 1985–February 1998)



Source: USAF

Migration Routes

