

# **Wildlife Risk Assessment**

**ADR.OPS.B.020**

Whitepaper

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# 1 Introduction

The Wildlife Management module from eControl aviation provides a comprehensive toolkit for measuring and monitoring the risk of bird strike at airports.

The procedure implemented in eControl aviation was developed with the scientific support of the DAVVL – the German Bird Strike Committee (GBSC). As head of the German Bird Strike Committee, Mr. Christian Hellberg designed the analysis of the empirical dataset of observations and bird strikes.

The risk assessment was implemented in conformity with the model created by Dr. John Allan and refined by David C. Paton. eControl offers integrated risk assessment providing reliable key risk indicators for each of over 600 species. Risk calculations and trend analysis can be called up as required for individual habitats or special groups of species. eControl aviation brings together all available datasets in one risk model. Alongside bird strike officials' point-stop counting, there is also the option of including ad-hoc wildlife observations that occur for example when monitoring flight movement areas.

Bird strikes can be recorded manually with eControl or imported from reportable occurrences in E5X format in accordance with Regulation (EU) 376/2014. eControl aviation also has comprehensive ornithological classifications for every species, which are indispensable for calculating the risk of bird strike with precision. Correction factors that can be configured appropriately make it possible to take into account site-specific and time-based ornithological situations.

Observations, bird strikes, model parameters and all other data structures are stored without exception as read-only in eControl according to the eControl system standard.

eControl can be used as a web-based system in any system environment required. It is based on state-of-the-art Microsoft technology and an Oracle database that does justice to larger datasets – built up over many years. Our consultants are at your disposal for the acquisition of historical datasets to obtain meaningful key indicators for your passenger airport with the commissioning of the system.

eControl aviation can be used both at civil airports, by bird strike committees, and by competent authorities. Standardised interfaces enable simple data exchange between the stakeholders involved.

## 2 Regulation (EU) 139/2014 Bird Strike Risk

In the European Union, the airport operator is legally obliged in accordance with Regulation (EU) 139/2014 to carry out a systematic risk assessment for the risk of bird strike<sup>1,2</sup>.

### **ADR.OPS.B.020 Wildlife strike hazard reduction**

The aerodrome operator shall:

- (a) assess the wildlife hazard on, and in the surrounding, of the aerodrome;
- ...

### **AMC1 ADR.OPS.B.020 Wildlife strike hazard reduction**

GENERAL

The aerodrome operator should:

- ...
- (c) ensure that wildlife hazard assessments are made by competent personnel; and
- (d) establish, implement and maintain a wildlife risk management programme.

### **GM1 ADR.OPS.B.020 Wildlife strike hazard reduction**

WILDLIFE RISK ASSESSMENT

- (a) The aerodrome operator should:
  - (1) conduct a risk assessment using strike data for each species, as well as information on the presence of species, the number of individuals, and their biology, and update this regularly;
  - (2) take into account the number of strikes for each species and the severity of damage arising from those strikes; and
  - (3) target actions on those species which are present with the highest frequency and create the greatest damage.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Commission Regulation (EU) No 139/2014  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0139&from=EN>

<sup>2</sup> Source: Annex to ED Decision 2014/012/R - EASA - Acceptable Means of Compliance (AMC) and Guidance Material (GM) to Authority, Organisation and Operations Requirements for Aerodromes  
<https://www.easa.europa.eu/system/files/dfu/2014-012-R-Annex%20to%20ED%20Decision%202014-012-R.pdf>

## 3 ICAO Airport Services Manual - Part 3: Wildlife Control and Reduction (Doc 9137)

The airfield operator is required in accordance with ICAO Doc 9137 to control and reduce the adverse effects of wildlife<sup>3</sup>.

...

3.3.1 Because of the importance of bird/wildlife control, each airport operator has the responsibility to develop, implement and demonstrate an effective bird/wildlife strike and wildlife control programme at the airport, and this should be tailored to and commensurate with the size and level of complexity of the airport, taking account of the identification of the bird hazard and the risk assessment of that hazard.

...

In „Chapter 6: (\*) use of the following risk matrix is recommended:

SEVERITY	PROBABILITY				
	Very high	High	Moderate	Low	Very low
Very high	3	3	3	2	2
Moderate	3	3	3	2	2
High	3	3	2	1	1
Low	2	2	1	1	1
Very low	1	1	1	1	1

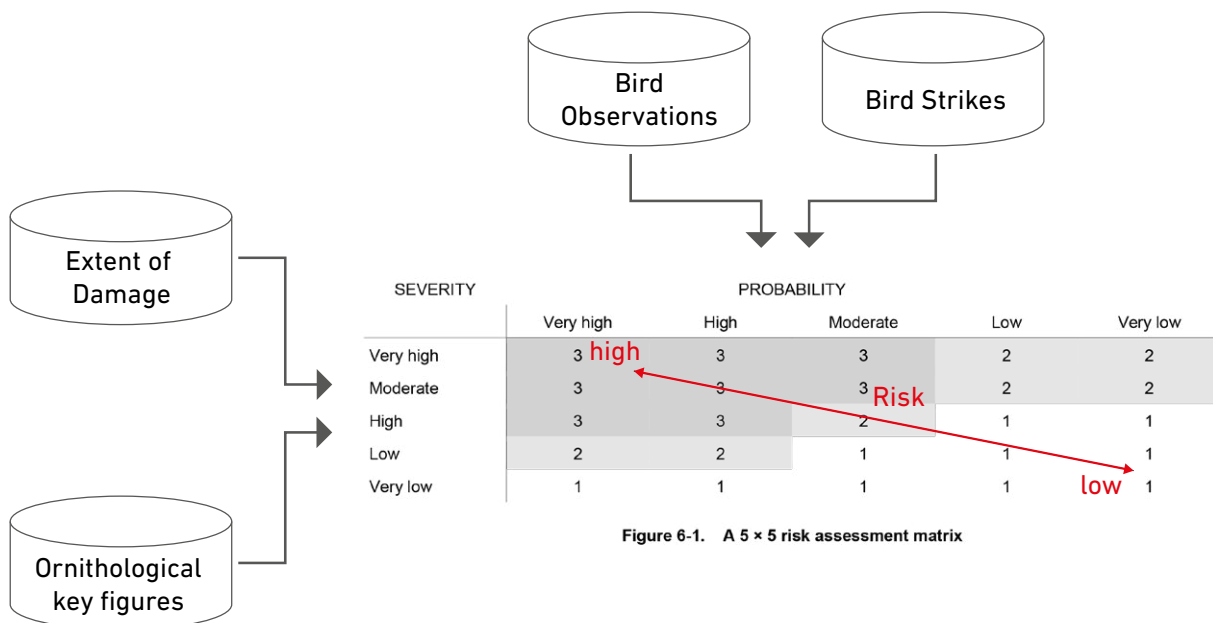
Figure 6-1. A 5 × 5 risk assessment matrix

<sup>3</sup> Source: ICAO Airport Services Manual Doc. 9137 - Part 3 Wildlife Control and Reduction  
<http://skybrary.aero/bookshelf/books/3185.pdf>

## 4 The Risk Model

The risk matrix is a recognised standard instrument for classifying risks.

When analysing **bird strike risks „R“**, the **probability „P“** of the unwanted bird strike and the **potential impact of such a bird strike (Severity) „S“** for a special kind of bird are contrasted with a species.



The above risk assessment is an expanded model of that of scientists David C. Paton and J. Allan, which uses the eControl comprehensive movement dataset to establish authentic key risk indicators, following the scientific recommendations of Christian Hellberg of the German Bird Strike Committee (GBSC).

Risk assessment with eControl aviation blends empirical data from bird observation and bird strikes with ornithological classification from the eControl species database, to determine the conclusive risk of bird strike according to species.

The multi-level process for processing quantitative and qualitative data can be adapted to the individual customer. Interval limits, scores and risk indices are pre-set following best practice and can be adjusted as required.

Site-specific factors that influence the likelihood of occurrence can be defined for a period of validity, in order thus to completely automatically slip authentic risk impacts or mitigations into the risk model.

Risk assessments are calculated at the touch of a button by a pre-set report generator. For each risk assessment, comprehensive documentation is provided completely automatically.

- Risk assessment risk potential species
- Risk assessment module parameters probability and severity
- Risk assessment Ecological criterias
- Risk assessment Probability details
- Risk assessment Severity details
- Risk assessment per Species
- Risk assessment species accumulated
- Risk assessment relative bird strikes frequency and severity
- Risk assessment species and trend analysis
- Risk assessment maintenance risk matrix birdstrike

## 5 Wildlife Observations

With eControl aviation, systematic bird counts can be carried out in habitats along a monitoring measuring section. The so-called point-stop process is applicable for the airport itself and for all relevant external habitats.

These wildlife counts can be documented directly in the field with eControl mobile and accepted completely automatically by eControl in the central database without further acquisition work. Acquisition can be mobile in the most cost-effective way possible with the help of the eControl mobile software module.

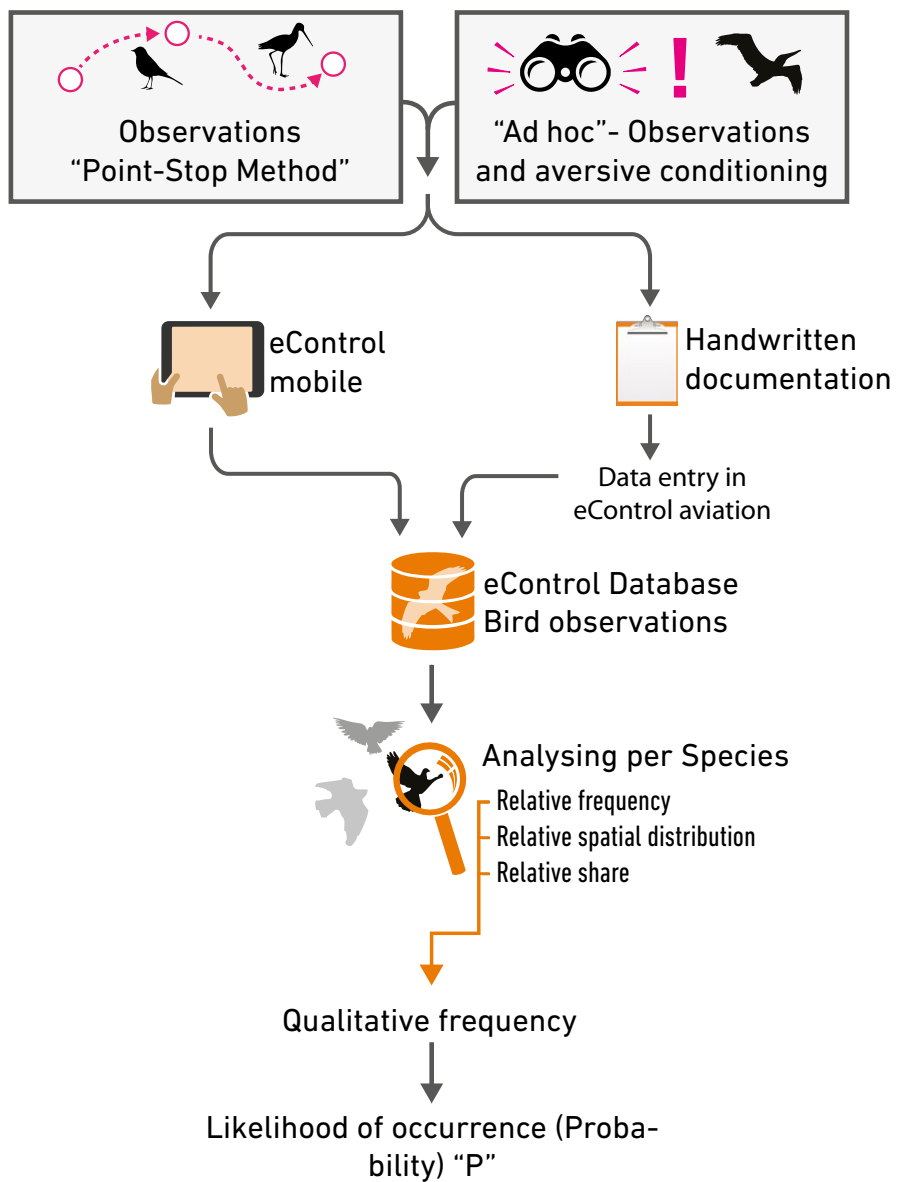
The screenshot shows the 'Animal observations - Point-Stopp' screen in the eControl mobile app. The interface includes a title field with 'Bird Control observation - Point-Stopp', an inspection number of 89617, and dropdown menus for 'Type/No' (set to 'Birds') and 'Pigeons, cuckoos'. A specific entry 'stock pigeon (8.333%)' is selected, with a count of 263. The 'Amount' field shows '7', and there are buttons for adjusting the count (-10, -1, +10, +1). A 'Note' field is also present. At the bottom, there is a 'Species information' section featuring a photo of a stock pigeon and a description: 'The Stock Dove or Stock Pigeon (Columba oenas) is a species of bird in the Columba genus in the Columbidae family. It is a member of the family Columbidae, doves and pigeons.' The app's navigation bar at the bottom includes icons for back, forward, and other functions.

Bird counts are qualitatively classified as part of the risk assessment by relative number, relative frequency and relative spatial distribution.

These qualitative frequencies are a substantial element for determining the risk component **"Probability (P)"**.

Bird counts by bird strike officials are used without additional acquisition work both for habitat management and as a basis of data for the risk assessment. Another source of bird strikes are the so-called "ad hoc" observations, documented by operative units in the regular monitoring of aviation areas.





## 6 Bird Strikes

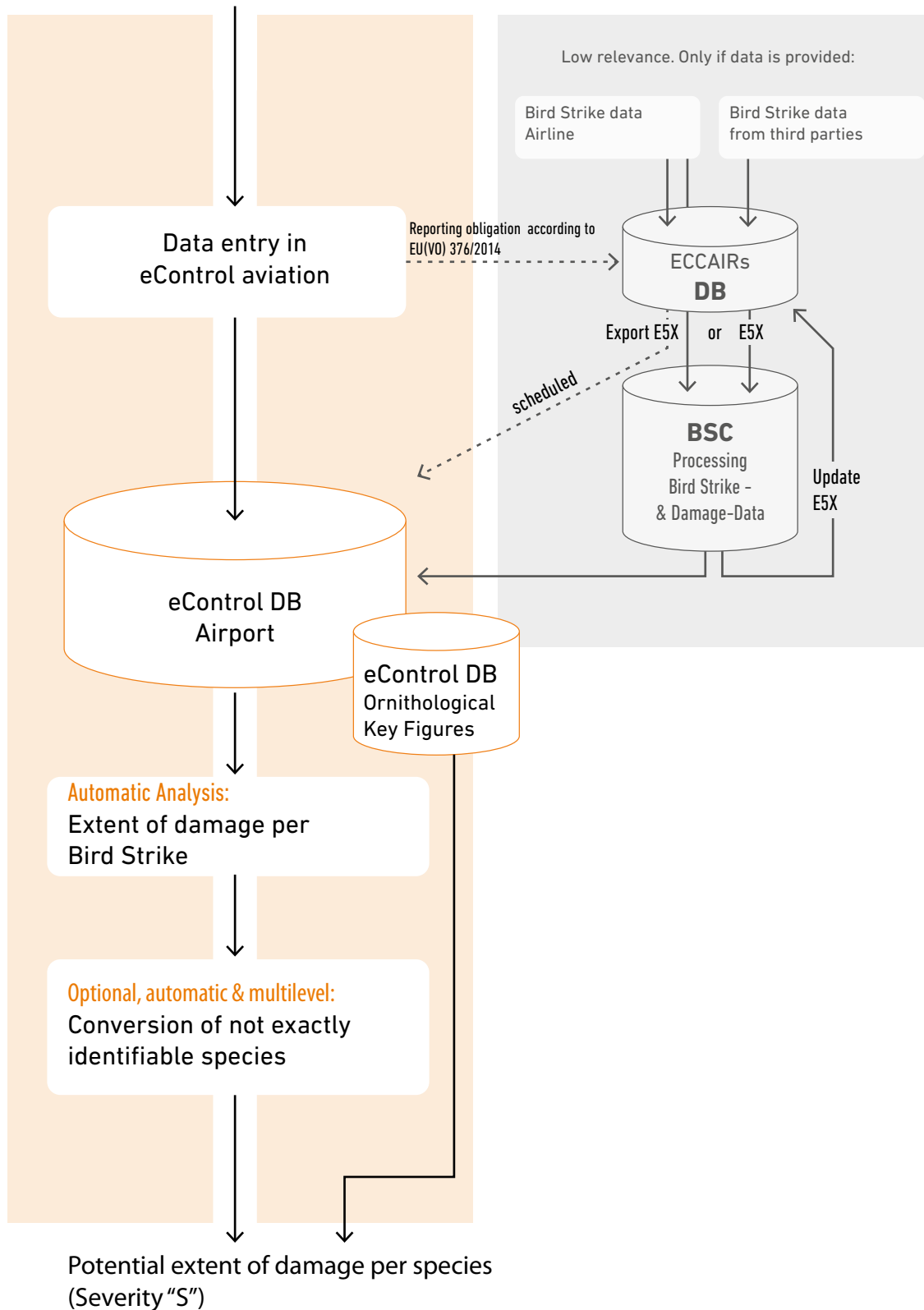
Past bird strikes documented are a decisive element for assessing further risks of bird strike. Bird strikes can be recorded direct by airports in eControl aviation according to the ICAO DOC 9332 standard. In addition bird strikes are reported to the national investigating authorities by airlines and other organisations. These bird strike reports shall be taken into account for an authentic calculation of the risk of bird strike.

With eControl aviation, bird strikes can be imported in ECCAIRS format E5X by the national supervisory authorities or in a proprietary eControl format by national BSCs (Bird Strike Committees), if they process bird strikes at national level using eControl aviation.

Unfortunately, empirical bird strike data neither have the claim to completeness nor can the species involved be reliably determined in each case.

eControl counteracts these shortcomings optionally with intelligent procedures that lead to a significant improvement of the data situation according to scientific opinion.

## Bird Strike documentation Airport



With eControl, bird strikes that cannot reliably be assigned to a species can be optionally included via impact factors when determining risk. Intelligent methods are applied to determine these impact factors using the actual involvement of species in the reference period, and these methods process each bird strike independent of the data quality. The historic extent of the damage of bird strikes can already be classified approximately through data gathering in accordance with the ICAO standard. Bird strikes with a significant risk potential have resulted in either a documented influence on the course of the flight or damage to aircraft components. If a bird strike results in the inspection of an A/C without a survey report, by default a medium extent of damage is assumed - the commercial loss for the operator is also significant here.

Damage classification can be adjusted to individual specifications at any time. The extent of damage is measured by a configurable classification according to bird strike. For every classification, scores can be freely determined, based on the risk assessment.

In the bullet point 6.6 of the Part 3 Wildlife Control and reduction document (Doc. 9137) a period of 5 years is recommended for the representative consideration of bird strikes according to species.

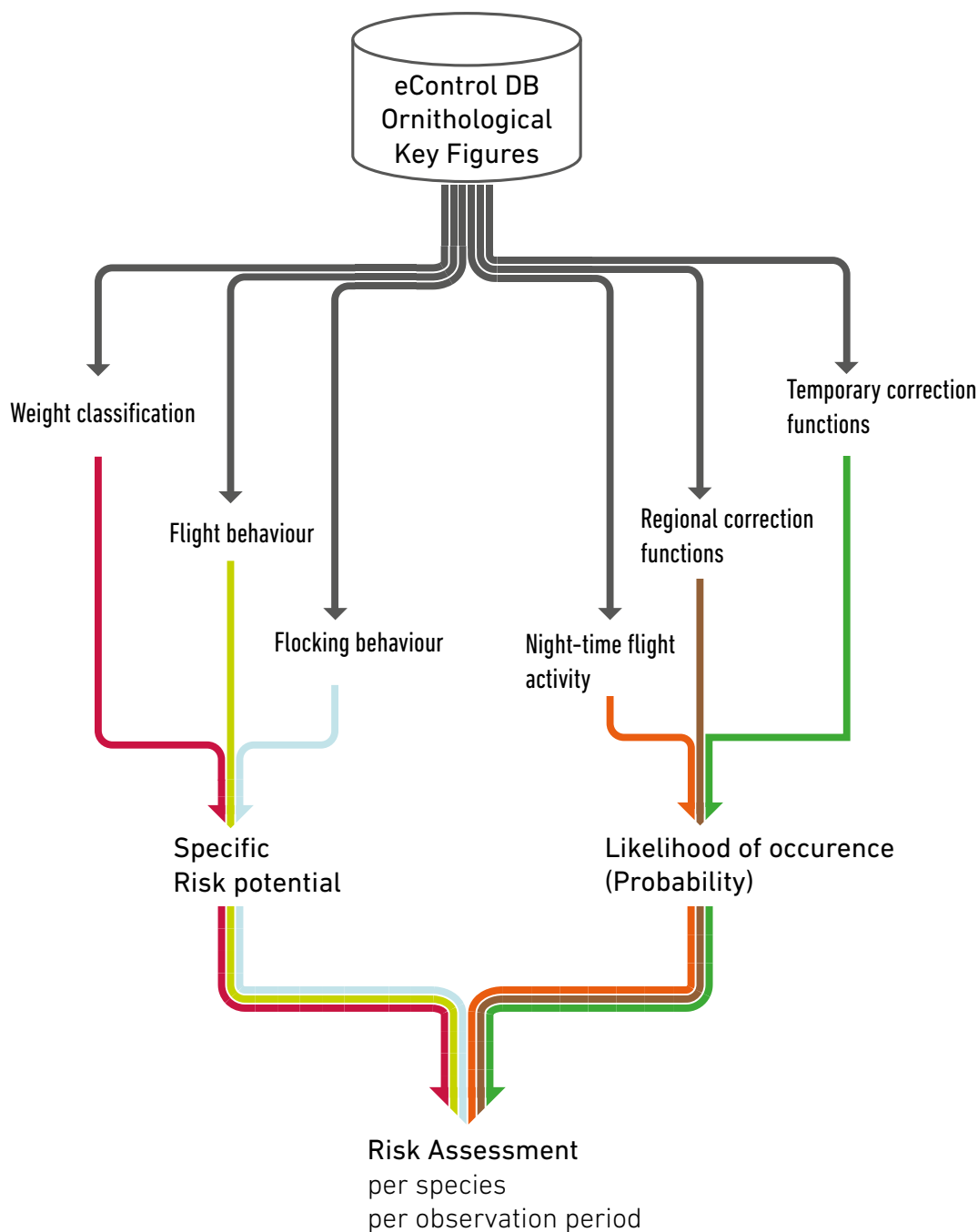
When validating risk indices, the observer has the option to increase the reference period for considering bird strikes notwithstanding a longer eligibility period in order to be able to recognise errors in measurement from the small number of bird strikes per species. The number and determination of interval limits is predefined at system level and can be altered as required.

There is an option to extend the reference period for bird strikes differently from the risk assessment analysis period, to ensure authentic processing of the species involved when there is a lower number of bird strikes per year.

## 7 Species Indicators

eControl aviation has a comprehensive ornithological database, enabling the free storage of biological master data for any species. For more than 1000 species eControl aviation offers around 30 indicators per species.


These indicators classify average bodyweight, flight characteristics and propensity for flight, night flying activity, feeding and breeding habits, migratory behaviour and many other aspects that can be used both for habitat management and for risk assessment. These figures can be readjusted according to need for the relevant site to take regional or temporary effects into account.





## 8 The Risk Matrix

The risk matrix is used additionally for a qualitative risk assessment to enable aggregation of the risk across species.

The individual risk assessment performed for a species can be precisely assigned to an element of the risk matrix. Each element of the risk matrix has a risk index. The addition of all risk indices for an observation period yields the overall risk for the respective site. Risk indices are ordinal, which enables measurement and comparison of the risk of bird strike over time. This trend analysis enables an objective evaluation of the measures for reducing the bird strike risk. With this risk matrix, acceptance criteria can be systematically combined according to species, so that action and habitat management can be controlled objectively according to species.

 High, intolerable risk of bird strike  
-> Additional risk mitigation measures required

 Medium, tolerable risk of bird strike  
-> Continuous annual review of effectiveness of mitigation measures

 Low, acceptable risk of bird strike  
-> No additional measures required

A qualitative risk assessment can be adjusted by the customer to the airport's individual requirements.

Severity	Total occurrence			
				Very high
	Acceptable 133 x 0.010 1.330	Acceptable 3 x 0.100 0.300	Acceptable 0 x 1.000 0.000	Tolerable 0 x 10.000 0.000
	Acceptable 90 x 0.100 9.000	Acceptable 6 x 1.000 6.000	Tolerable 1 x 10.000 10.000 Graureiher	Tolerable 1 x 100.000 100.000 Turmfalke
	Acceptable 27 x 1.000 27.000	Tolerable 3 x 10.000 30.000 Stöckente Haustaube Ringeltaube	Not tolerable 2 x 100.000 200.000 Star Rabenkrähe	Not tolerable 1 x 1.000.000 1.000.000 Mäusebussard
	Tolerable 0 x 10.000 0.000	Not tolerable 0 x 100.000 0.000	Not tolerable 0 x 1.000.000 0.000	Not tolerable 0 x 10.000.000 0.000
	Not tolerable 0 x 100.000 0.000	Not tolerable 0 x 10.000.000 0.000	Not tolerable 0 x 10.000.000 0.000	Not tolerable 0 x 100.000.000 0.000
Amount species		267.000	Accumulated risk	1,383.630

System settings are specified in the above risk matrix. All classifications and the number of the respective elements, quantifications etc. are implemented with absolute flexibility through database settings and can be adjusted as required by the customer according to the specifics of the site and regulatory requirements.

## 9 Carrying Out the Risk Assessment

Risk assessment can be carried out at any time at the request of the user with eControl aviation. Numerous calculation parameters mean the bird strike official can carry out precise testing of assumed cause-and-effect chains and contributing factors. Causal relationships identified can be compared with various habitat management statistics that can be calculated with exactly the same calculation parameters at system level, to ensure efficient measures for reducing the risk of bird strike.

The above selection criteria are available for various bird control statistics. Below is a list of the most important report generators of the Bird Control software module.

- **Birdstrike time of day analysis**
- **Frequency and vegetation data**
- **Frequency distribution of birds**
- **FD birds to partial areas**
- **Cartographic evaluation**
- **Message animal collisions grouped by animal species**
- **Message animal collisions and observations**
- **Monthly average of bird observations**
- **Frequency distribution of animal species -daily**
- **Animal collision elevation profile**
- **Dead animal finds**
- **Trend analysis observations**

The selection criteria can also be used for different report generators.

# 10 Parameter Risk Assessment and Trend Analysis

- **Period from/to (Risk Assessment Observation period, compare chapter 11-15)**

Specification of an observation period for bird observations

or

Type and number of calculation intervals (see section „15. Report: Species trend analysis“)

- **Bird strike reference period**

Specification of a different, representative reference period for bird strikes, to guarantee a representative distribution of bird strikes according to species

- **Site**

There can be nuanced extension of different sites or airports

- **Habitats**

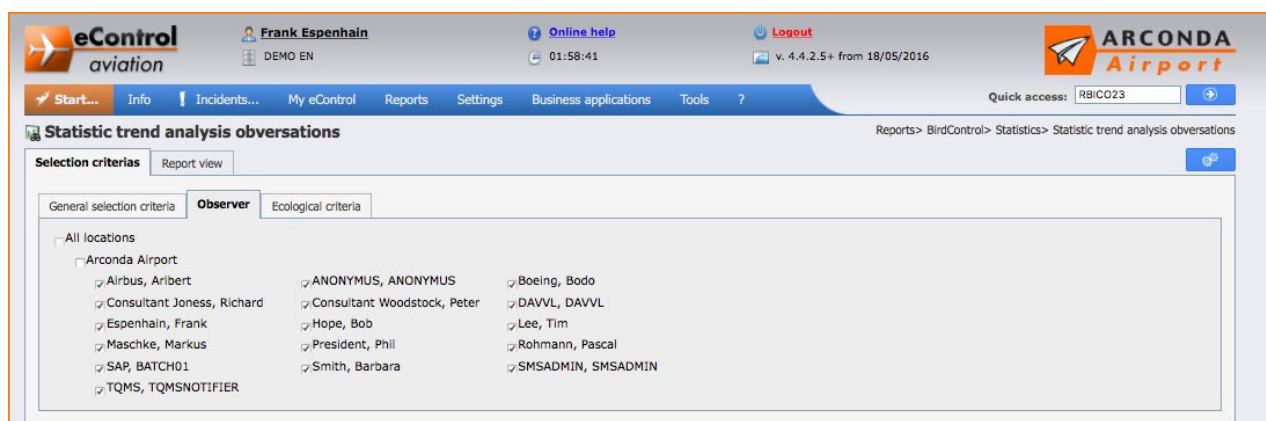
Bird observations can be narrowed down to individual habitats or to a desired number of habitats. As an example, in this way surveys of external habitats can be excluded from calculation of the risk assessment.

- **Counting procedure**

The counting procedure means bird observations can be narrowed down to point-stop counts or ad-hoc observations (e.g. from monitoring aviation areas).

- **Observers/Personnel**

Observations can be narrowed down to a specific group of observers on a separate tab head, for taking into account the different ornithological competences of personnel that may lead to a different frequency distribution for the species observed.



Selection of observers is standardised for all eControl habitat management statistics.



- **Determining frequency**

When determining number frequencies of species or bird observations either:

- Frequencies per inspection or
- Frequencies per inspection and observation period

can be selected.

- **Species frequency distribution**

There are three options for the procedure to calculate the number and distribution of bird strikes:

- a) Bird strikes of identified species / Total number of all bird strikes
- b) -" / Total number of all bird strikes with bird strikes identified
- c) All bird strikes incl. impact factors for species not precisely identified / number of all bird strikes

Option a) delivers the lowest frequencies. Option b) leads to increased proportions for bird strikes „n“. Option c) uses all available information and offers an authentic distribution of bird strikes, higher than with Option a) but lower than with selective consideration of Option b). Option c) is the default.

- **Bird strike notification category**

Consideration of bird strikes can be based on bird strikes recorded independently by airports "Bird strike notification" or on bird strike reports provided by the respective bird strike committees (BSCs) or by regulatory authorities in E5X format.

The default is: „Notification Bird strike“

- **Flight phases (and areas)**

This parameter enables a nuanced consideration of bird strikes according to the flight phase in which they arose. Pre-selected are all flight phases of "areas 1 and 2", where it can be assumed that these fall within the area of responsibility of the airport.

The observer is required to specify flight phases for consideration. A very restrictive consideration can lead to a risk rating that is latently too low. In this connection consideration should also be given to (\*), which allows for a wildlife risk management monitoring area of 13Km (7nm) outwards from the airport reference point.



# 12 Report: Severity details

The risk assessment statistic “severity details” provides detailed information for the potential extent of damage according to species for the respective risk assessment.

Risk Assessment Species

Reports > BirdControl> Risk Assessment> Risk Assessment Species

Selection criteria

Report view

Risk assessment severity details

Location: Arconda Airport

Map: Bird Control - Arconda Airport (160), Measuring Point A, Measuring Point B, Measuring Point V1, Measuring Point V2, Measuring Point 1, Measuring Point 10, Measuring Point 11, Measuring Point 12, Measuring Point 13

Investigation period 01/01/2015/28/08/2017

Reference date bird strike 29/08/2012/28/08/2017

Measuring method: - Alle -

Averaging procedure: Share of Bird strikes

Messages: Hazard message animal collision

Frequency computation: Frequency per inspection

Flight phase: Sinkflug (1.000 - >200 ft) - Area 2, Landung (200 - >0ft) - Area 1, Rollen Landung (0 ft) - Area 1, Rollen (0 ft) - Area 1, Stand (0 ft) - Area 1, Start (0 ft) - Area 1, Start (>0 - 500 ft) - Area 1, Unbekannt - Area 1, Steigflug (>500 - 1.500 ft) - Area 2

Flight propensity: ☐

Night flight activity: ☐

Year specific: ☐

Correctional factors:

Representation: Risk assessment severity details

Order: Probability of occurrence

Observer: All

Ecological criteria:

Species	Scientific name	Body mass	Swarm formation	Flight propensity	Specific hazard potential	Loss ratio per species	Severity bird strike species
	ID	Classification[G.1]	Classification[G.2]	Classification[G.3]	Classification[H]	Damage[J]	Severity[K]
Selection	S	Selection	-	Selection	-	Selection	t1
Golden eagle	Aquila chrysaetos	Class	1.001-5.000 g Class	Usually solitary or Class widely spaced	Rapid direct	Product Class	16
	9902415	Score	16.000	Score	1.000	Score	4 ( )
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	Class	201-1.000 g Class	Usually solitary or Class widely spaced	Slow, meandering, erratic, hovering, manoeuvrable	Product Class	16
	9902039	Score	8.000	Score	1.000	Score	4 ( )
Merlin	Falco columbarius	Class	201-1.000 g Class	Usually solitary or Class widely spaced	Slow, meandering, erratic, hovering, manoeuvrable	Product Class	16
	9902038	Score	8.000	Score	1.000	Score	4 ( )
Hobby	Falco subtuteo	Class	201-1.000 g Class	Usually solitary or Class widely spaced	Slow, meandering, erratic, hovering, manoeuvrable	Product Class	16
	9902037	Score	8.000	Score	1.000	Score	4 ( )
Peregrine	Falco peregrinus	Class	201-1.000 g Class	Usually solitary or Class widely spaced	Slow, meandering, erratic, hovering, manoeuvrable	Product Class	16



# 14 Report: Species accumulated

The classification of species into the risk matrix and the final aggregation of the risk indices enable complete risk measurement taking all species into consideration. This approach is necessary for re-viewing the effectiveness of bird strike prevention measures, as measures to control individual species or categories often entail undesirable compensating effects. After the occurrence of birds of prey is reduced, the growth in prey birds can compensate or over-compensate for the risk mitigation effect. Compensating effects are included by taking all species into account as part of the Observation Period risk assessment.

Risk Assessment Species

Reports > BirdControl> Risk Assessment> Risk Assessment Species

Selection criteria

Report view

Risk assessment species accumulated

Location: Arconda Airport

Map: Bird Control - Arconda Airport (160), Measuring Point A, Measuring Point B, Measuring Point , Measuring Point V1, Measuring Point V2, Measuring Point 1, Measuring Point 10, Measuring Point 11, Measuring Point 12, Measuring Point 13

Investigation period 01/01/2015/28/08/2017

from/to:

Reference date bird 29/08/2012/28/08/2017

strike from/to:

Measuring method: - All -

Averaging procedure: Share of Bird strikes

Messages: Hazard message animal collision

Frequency computation: Frequency per inspection

Flight phase: Sinkflug (1.000 - >200 ft) - Area 2, Landung (200 - >0ft) - Area 1, Rollen Landung (0 ft) - Area 1, Rollen (0 ft)- Area 1, Stand (0 ft)- Area 1, Start (0 ft) - Area 1, Start (>0 - 500 ft) - Area 1, Unbekannt - Area 1, Steigflug (>500 - 1.500 ft) - Area 2

Flight propensity: ☐

Night flight activity: ☐

Year specific: ☐

correctional factors:

Representation: Risk assessment species accumulated

Order: Probability of occurrence

Observer: All

Ecological criteria:

Severity	Total occurrence			
				Very high
	Acceptable 133 x 0.010 1.330	Acceptable 3 x 0.100 0.300	Acceptable 0 x 1.000 0.000	Tolerable 0 x 10.000 0.000
	Acceptable 90 x 0.100 9.000	Acceptable 6 x 1.000 6.000	Tolerable 1 x 10.000 10.000 Graureiher	Tolerable 1 x 100.000 100.000 Turmfalke
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	Tolerable 0 x 10.000 0.000	Not tolerable 0 x 100.000 0.000	Not tolerable 0 x 1.000.000 0.000	Not tolerable 0 x 10.000.000 0.000
Amount species		267.000	Accumulated risk	1.383.630

Datenquellen

Ökologische Stammdaten eControl aviation (Bericht Ökologische Kriterien)

Vogelbeobachtungen und Vogelschläge (div. Wildlife-Statistiken)

Modellparameter (Bericht Modellparameter Eintrittswahrscheinlichkeit und Schweregrad)

Eintrittswahrscheinlichkeit (Bericht Risk Assessment Detailinformationen Eintrittswahrscheinlichkeit)

Schweregrad (Bericht Risk Assessment Detailinformationen Schweregrad)

Riskassessment je Species (Bericht Risk Assessment je Species)

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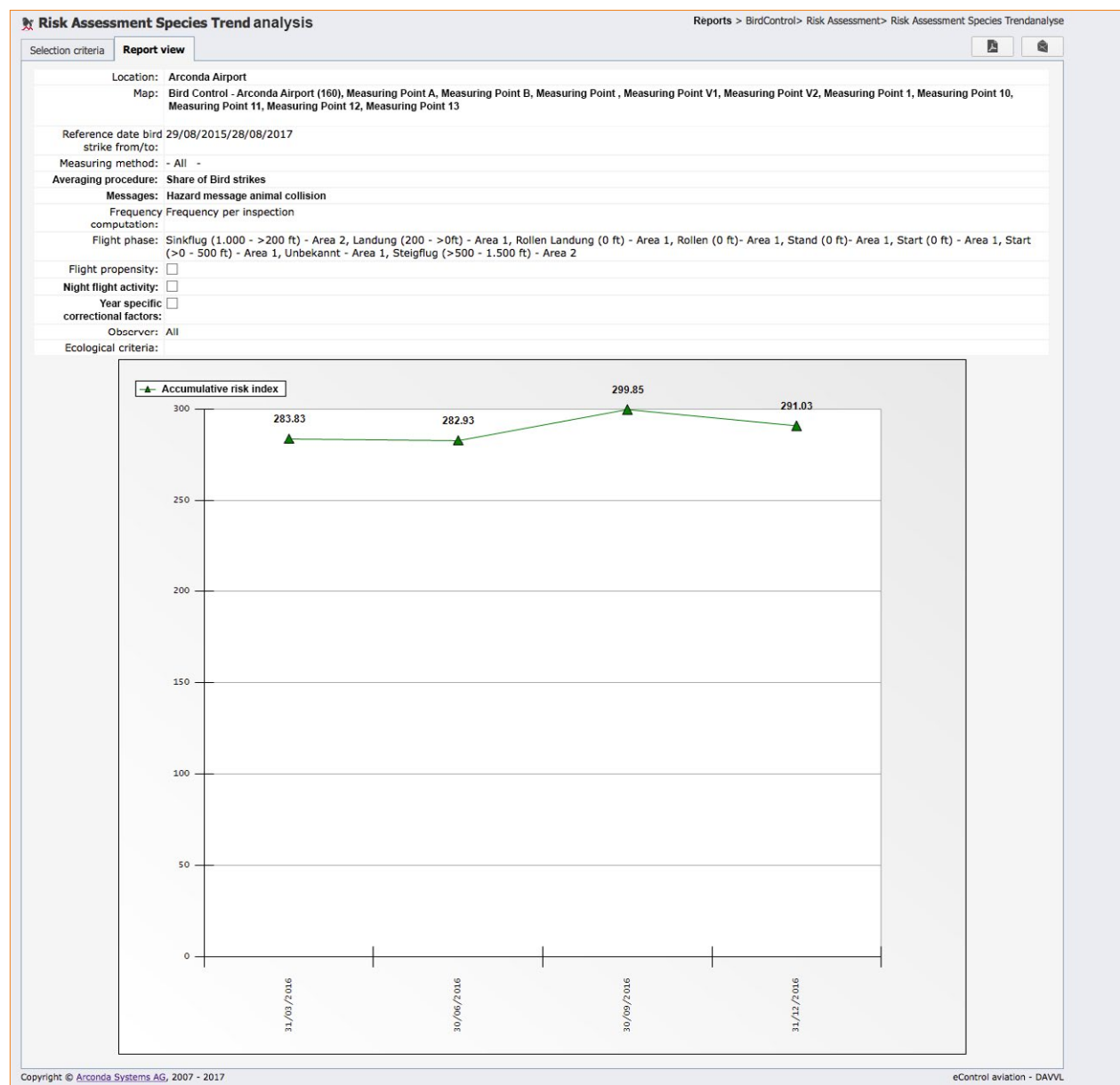
eControl aviation - DAVL

# 15 Report: Species trend analysis

The long-term development of the risk of bird strike can only be determined by trend analysis. With the Trend Analysis Risk Assessment the system carries out its own risk assessment for each observation interval. eControl ensures that temporary correction factors are correctly taken into account and carries out the risk assessments for the individual observation intervals with the same model parameter, to avoid distortions of the trend analysis.

The trend analysis can be presented for a month, a quarter or a year, provided the system supports up to 36 observation intervals.

To facilitate accounting for the occurrence and distribution of bird strikes according to species in a statistically appropriate way, a differently representative observation period for bird strikes can also be set here of course. Anomalies in the trend analysis can be investigated through individual risk assessments in accordance with bullet points (\*), selecting identical analysis parameters to enable retrieval of the detailed information desired.





# eControl

Process  
Management

Operation  
Management

Safety  
Management

Audit  
Management

Qualification  
Management

Compliance  
Management

Environmental Bird Control  
Management

Customers:



District  
Government of  
Upper Bavaria



Customers international:

