

Laser beams, sounds to protect Geneva Airport from plane-bird collision

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To scare birds experts use whistling devices and sounds

GENEVA, Nov 8 (KUNA) -- To reduce risks of aircraft collision with birds, Geneva Airport has taken a number of measures including laser beams, whistling devices and sounds, airport official Stephane Pillet told a group of reporters.

The teams that take care of security at Geneva Airport, he added, sweep the area three times per day using the techniques mentioned.

Surrounding the airport are 90 bird species, and the most dangerous impact is upon take-off with a 66 percent occurrence.

Damages from bird collision with aircrafts amount to USD 1.1 billion annually. Pillet, who is the Airport Director of Environmental Studies, said that one of the means for reducing these collisions was to keep grass high. However, this could entail other risks.

He added that the Geneva Airport was using electronic sound effects that birds would not be accustomed to. Behavioral studies of species are extremely important to protect the airport.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) estimates that bird collisions with civilian aircraft stand at some 34,000 annually, and at 2,000 annually with military aircraft with a loss of 175 military aircrafts in Europe between 1959 and 1997. Pillet noted that even with the risks that were involved in bird collision with aircrafts, technology had made aircrafts safer over the years with technology that killed the bird before penetrating the engine.



Philippe ROY spokesperson for Geneva airport Stephane Pillet



Stephane Pillet shows reporters the laser beam