



News for Stakeholders

December 2011

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APHIS Employee Feature: Dr. Brian Washburn, Wildlife Services

Name: Brian E. Washburn

Title: Research Wildlife Biologist for Wildlife Services' (WS) National Wildlife Research Center

Tell us about your role: My role in APHIS is to conduct scientific research focused on reducing collisions between wildlife and aircraft (both civilian and military). This research provides effective management tools and techniques to WS' airport personnel and others tasked with increasing aviation safety, as well as adding to the wildlife ecology scientific literature. My research program has several focus areas, including airfield habitat management, management of raptors (e.g., hawks and eagles), and evaluating and modeling the safety risk posed by birds through the use of cutting-edge satellite telemetry. I also serve as the Technical Program Advisor for Bird Strike Committee-USA and as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Michigan State University, North Carolina State University, and the University of Missouri.

How long have you worked at APHIS: This February, I will have worked for APHIS for 9 years. All of my time with the agency has been in my current position as a researcher with the National Wildlife Research Center. During that time, I have had the pleasure to work with an amazing group of fellow researchers, WS airport biologists and specialists, personnel from other Federal and State agencies, academics, and stakeholders. Although my field station is located in northern Ohio, I have conducted active research at over 50 airports and military airfields in more than 16 States. Prior to coming to APHIS, I was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Missouri and previously worked for the Pennsylvania Game Commission and The Wildlife Society.



Brian E. Washburn
Research Wildlife Biologist
Wildlife Services' (WS)
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Education: I earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Sciences from the University of Kentucky, a Master of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from The Pennsylvania State University, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Forest Biology from the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, and an Associate in Applied Science in Biological Technology from the SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill.

Most Memorable APHIS experience: Like my APHIS colleagues, I find there are memorable experiences that occur on a near-daily basis. However, if I must select one event as most memorable, it would be serving on a Technical Panel of wildlife hazard mitigation experts at the request of U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and preparing a final report from this effort. Working with a team of internationally recognized wildlife strike experts, I evaluated a proposed solid waste transfer station near LaGuardia Airport in New York City. The Technical Panel carefully reviewed all available materials regarding the proposed waste management facility, conducted a risk assessment, and provided management recommendations. The highly controversial and political environment surrounding this issue is currently on-going, but the efforts by this group provided a science-based foundation to this important issue.

Priorities for the coming months: My priorities in the coming months are to continue existing research and to develop new research projects studying and modeling the movements of large birds (such as eagles, hawks, and geese) that pose a safety risk to civilian and military aircraft operations. Also, I will be serving on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Eagle Technical Assessment Team and working to find solutions to human-eagle conflicts associated with wind energy development, airports, and military operations across North America.



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Last good book read: Patton on Leadership, by Alan Axelrod. “When in doubt, Attack!”

Favorite movie: Highlander. (There should have only been one.... no sequels)

Hobbies: Jeffrey (my son) and Karma (my cat), bird-watching, hunting, camping, houseplants, cooking, reading