

Fact sheet on CAA TDC Report No. 62

Reference: Kangas and Pigman, Collision of Birds with Aircraft in Scheduled Commercial Operations in the Continental United States, TDC Report No. 62, CAA, 1949

CAA TDC Report No. 62 was one of the more notable studies conducted by the Technical Development Center of the Civil Aeronautics Administration between the years 1942 and 1946. During this period, bird strike data were collected, collated and analyzed. The resulting report showed that all bird strikes to all areas of airplanes, 28 percent were to windshields and that, of the strikes resulting in damage classified as severe, windshields were involved in 37 percent of the cases. The report further produced some additional figures which indicated that strikes to other parts of the aircraft did not pose a serious hazard:

| Strike Area | Percent of Total Strikes |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Fuselage | 31 % |
| Powerplant | 9 % |
| Wings | 23 % |
| Other (e.g. antennas, landing gear and empennage*) | 4 % |

(*) Only 1 of 473 reported collisions caused considerable damage to a tail surface

In consideration of the fact that serious damage to such items as antennas, dents and even holes in wings, cowlings and fuselage do not in themselves render an aircraft incapable of further flight, the industry was justifiably satisfied at that time that further "birdproofing" requirements were unnecessary.