

Airports to Take Responsibility for Bird Strikes

A judgement by the Malta Court of Appeal has ordered the Malta International Airport to pay Air Malta over €250,000 for damages sustained during a bird strike which occurred in 2004.

A judgement like the one against the Malta International Airport opens the door for bird control procedures at other airports to be scrutinized. Airports around the world must ensure that they are taking all of the necessary steps to ensure safety of aircraft using their facilities, specifically focusing on the removal of pest birds that may interfere with the safe operation of aircraft.

According to Malta Today, Flight KM100 to London was preparing for take-off, when a flock of starlings flew straight into the jet's fly path, causing substantial damage to the plane. At the time, the only bird control mechanism in place at the airport was a truck equipped with a device to scare pest birds away. Instead of allowing the vehicle to inspect the runway, the pilots were given clearance to take off.

Birds are attracted to airports for a variety of reasons, including for food, water and shelter. Both large birds and smaller flocks of birds can be dangers to aircraft, either by direct impact or by being ingested into the aircraft's engine. In addition to direct damage to the aircraft like in the Air Malta case, bird strikes can create unsafe flying conditions if critical damage occurs (as happened with [US Airways Flight 1549](#) making an emergency landing on the Hudson River)

Though the MIA argued otherwise, the court ruled that the MIA should have ensured that adequate bird control measures were in place and that it was not convinced that MIA had exhausted all measures to avoid such an incident. The most effective method of bird control around airports is the use of birds of prey and/or dogs. Hawkeye Bird and Animal Control is uniquely authorized under permit and license to permanently remove birds such as pest pigeons, sea gulls, and geese using a variety of methods including birds of prey.

As a leader in the commercial Bird, Animal & Wildlife control industry Hawkeye has developed a variety of services to meet the needs of our clients in a wide variety of locations and industries. Our fur bearer license give us and you the client great flexibility in permanent removal of Bird, Animal & Wildlife on your property. Call Hawkeye Bird and Animal Control for more information on how we can permanently remove pest birds using our birds of prey and dogs.