

# SAFETY GRAM 4.0

November 2022



Air Force Aero Clubs,

In the March 2021 Safety Gram Aero Clubs highlighted bird migration activity and their potential risks to aircraft safety. This month I want to provide more information on the Air Force Aviation Hazard Advisory System (AHAS) mentioned as resource in that Safety Gram. The website to access this tool is <https://www.usahas.com/> and attached is a the most current training brief on how to utilize the site as a tool for predicting bird activity for your flights. Although tailored for many Air Force missions like low-level flying, it is still a very useful tool providing bird data for areas where Aero Clubs fly.

The AHAS system uses three different sources of data to provide a AHAS risk assessment. It is important when viewing AHAS risk you understand what source of data that is based on. The first data source is NEXRAD, which is a real time data coming from 159 next generation weather radar stations. NEXRAD data is only given if checking bird risk within the current hour and is only good for the current risk. The second source is using the SOAR risk, which uses Model Output Statistics (MOS) and Upper Air Data (UPA) weather data and known population of some soaring species of birds to determine risk. SOAR is updated every twelve hours and can predict risks up to 24 hours in advance. The third source is the Bird Avoidance Model (BAM), which uses historical data to estimate bird distributions for a particular location and time.

AHAS is meant to be used as a tool during preflight preparations to assess the risk of bird activity. It should not be used as a substitute for real-time observations of other aircraft or ATC. Each club should also be familiar with and utilize their installations Bird and Wildlife Strike Hazard (BASH) guidance tailored to Aero Club flight operations.

Fly Safely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan F. Koch', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan "SAS" Koch, Lt Col, USAF  
Director of Operations & Safety USAF Aero Clubs  
[Jonathan.koch@us.af.mil](mailto:Jonathan.koch@us.af.mil)