

2002 Aircraft Make and Model Aircraft Identification Mark Points of Departure

**WELCOME TO THE CAP-USAF/  
NCLR FLYING SAFETY SHEET.  
This is the July 2004  
briefing.**

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While the flying performed in the Civil Air Patrol is not pants-on-fire doing 350 knots at 300 feet on a low level, we do encounter bird hazards just the same. The incident in North Dakota drives this point home. We may not have turkey vultures smashing through the canopy, but we still can have significant damage or even worse. To help mitigate these risks we can use Operation Risk Management (ORM). To fine tune our ORM methods we can incorporate two great tools that are mandated in most Air Force flying - AHAS/BAM - as abbreviated, or the Avian Hazard Advisory System and the Bird Avoidance Model. The great thing about these tools is that they are FREE! They are available via any public internet connection and are even advertised for FAA flyers! Give these two great websites a look and consider incorporating them into your ORM.

## Avian Hazard Advisory System

AHAS uses the NEXRAD weather radar system to monitor large-scale migratory bird activity in the lower 48 states. The current conditions shown by the AHAS web page also include the risk from migration and soaring bird activity, which is determined by predictive models using National Weather Service (NWS) weather data.

The United States Avian Hazard Advisory System (AHAS) web page is operational and available to access information on bird strike risk for the continental US. The web site provides simple to use pages to access bird strike risk for published IR, VR and SR routes, Ranges, MOA's and Military Airfields. More than 4000 locations in the lower 48 states are currently being evaluated.

The United States Air Force has developed a predictive Bird Avoidance Model (BAM) using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology as a key tool for analysis and correlation of bird habitat, migration, and breeding characteristics, combined with key environmental, and man-made geospatial data. The model consists of GIS raster grids, which span the conterminous United States. The value for each cell (or pixel) is equivalent to the sum of the mean bird mass (in ounces), for all species present during a particular daily time period, for one of 26 two-week periods in a year.

