

9/11/2025

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2025-228/5-75

To: FAA (MIA IFO), Airport Manager, Jose Marti Int'l Airport (MUHA), Havana, Cuba ²²⁴⁶⁰⁵¹

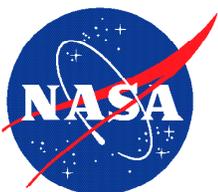
Info: FAA (AVP-1, AVP-200, AFS-260, AFS-200), A4A, ALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, ATSG, CAPA, ICASS, ICAO, IFALPA, NBAA, NTSB, Civil Aviation Institute of Cuba

From: Becky L. Hooey, Director
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

Re: Bird Hazards Vicinity of MUHA/HAV Airport

We recently received ASRS reports describing a safety concern that may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the enclosed deidentified report.

To properly assess the usefulness of our alert message service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Dr. Becky Hooey at (408) 541-2854 or email at becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov.



Aviation Safety Reporting System
P.O. Box 189 | Moffett Field, CA | 94035-0189



ACN 2246051

DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence 202505
Local Time Of Day 1201 to 1800

PLACE

Locale MUHA.Airport
State FO
Altitude - AGL 300

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Tower MUHA
Make Model Name Commercial Fixed Wing
Operating Under FAR Part 121

COMPONENT 1

Aircraft Component Hydraulic System

COMPONENT 2

Aircraft Component Nosewheel Steering

PERSON 1

Function - Flight Crew First Officer
Function - Flight Crew Pilot Flying
ASRS Report Number 2246051

PERSON 2

Function - Flight Crew Captain
Function - Flight Crew Pilot Not Flying
ASRS Report Number 2245896

EVENTS

Anomaly Aircraft Equipment Problem - Critical
Anomaly Ground Event / Encounter - Loss Of Aircraft Control
Anomaly Inflight Event / Encounter - Bird / Animal
Detector - Person Flight Crew
Result - General Maintenance Action
Result - Flight Crew Took Evasive Action
Result - Air Traffic Control Provided Assistance
Result - Aircraft Aircraft Damaged

NARRATIVE 1

On final approach at approximately 300 feet above ground level (AGL), a large bird struck the aircraft, impacting the front landing gear wheel well. Due to the phase of flight, we continued the approach and landed without issue.

As the pilot flying, I transferred control to the captain at around 60 knots. However, upon attempting to exit the runway, we realized that directional control via the nose wheel steering had been lost. At that point, we stopped on the runway and requested assistance from air traffic control, asking for ground personnel to help maneuver the aircraft off the runway.

After parking, maintenance conducted an inspection and discovered the bird within the wheel well. Several hydraulic lines had been damaged as a result of the impact, and within minutes of shutting down, hydraulic system A had fully depleted.

Cause: Proceed with caution and remain vigilant for bird activity in the vicinity of airports, particularly on final approach. In this specific incident, a significant amount of trash was observed near the airport perimeter fences at Havana Airport, leading to frequent presence of large birds in the area.

Due to this environmental factor, pilots should anticipate potential bird hazards during arrival and take appropriate precautions to mitigate risks.

NARRATIVE 2

On final approach, at approximately 300 feet AGL, we hit a large bird with the nose landing gear. We continued the approach and landed normally. Below 60 knots I took control of the airplane and when I tried steering off the runway's centerline the tiller did not move. At that point I came to a complete stop, and I tried moving the tiller again. It did not move at all. We immediately advised the tower that we had no steering control and contacted operations to be towed in to the ramp. With the towers clearance we shut down both engines, and used the APU. At the ramp, remains of the bird was found in the nose wheel well. It seemed to be a common vulture. After the mechanic removed the bird, he found that two hydraulic lines were pinched. Hydraulic fluid was leaking and spraying out. Hydraulic system A was completely empty, and spilled on the ramp.

Cause: Airport staff should be trained and given tools to keep birds away.

SYNOPSIS

Air carrier flight crew reported a bird strike on final approach resulted in hydraulic system damage and loss of steering control. The crew called attention to the bird hazards at MUHA/HAV airport, and suggested trash accumulating along the perimeter fences might be attracting birds to the area.