

the presence of a dump where gulls could feed, and the high fertility of the runway areas. Insects and worm abundance are related to fertility. The de-icing agent used on runways is urea rather than salt which causes aircraft corrosion. Urea is also a fertilizer. Thus the runway areas have a high fertility which results in large population of insects and worms. Although the hawkweed makes it difficult for gulls to get at the insects and worms, the worms crawl out from under the protection of the leaves onto the runways during rain or heavy dew. The gulls feed on these abundant worms, and then loaf on the warm runways. Chemical control of the worms seemed to be the only feasible solution.

At the Charlottetown airport gulls are the largest problem. The gulls frequent the airport primarily to loaf on the runways which become warm early in the morning. As mentioned, gulls usually prefer to have a good source reasonably nearby. When the food supply is sufficiently removed, the gulls frequent a new loafing area closer to the food supply. Garbage dumps provide one of the more concentrated and frequented food sources for gulls. Thus the greater the distance between the dump and the airport, the better. Gulls frequenting the East Royalty dump are known to loaf at the Charlottetown airport. Consideration of this relationship is necessary when planning for a new dump site if the hazard of birds at airports is to be minimized.

With the use of knowledge gathered on making airports less favourable for bird populations, the frequency of air strikes in the late 1970's was less than that in the early 1960's. It is hoped that with further understanding of bird, insect, small mammal and vegetation relationships at airports, it

may be possible to further reduce the instances of collisions between birds and aircrafts.

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ANSWERS TO "BIRD QUIZ"

1. Black-capped Chickadee
2. Eastern Wood Pewee
3. Snow Bunting
4. Yellow Warbler
5. Canada Goose
6. Common Tern
7. Common Eider
8. Great Blue Heron
9. Double-crested Cormorant
10. Common Nighthawk
11. Kestral (Sparrow Hawk)
12. Red-winged Blackbird
13. Ruby-throated Hummingbird
14. Common Snipe
15. Horned Lark