

## Presentation

The Spanish Aviation Safety and Security Agency is the entity responsible for coordinating the implementation and execution of the Spanish State Safety Programme (PESO), established by Law 1/2011 of 4 March, as well as for monitoring compliance with the safety targets specified in it, which include improving safety in general and sports aviation.

PESO rounds out the traditional regulatory approach to safety, based on conducting inspections and audits, with a new preventive approach that strives for constant improvement.

Safety Analysis and Internal Technical Audit Directorate (DESATI) is the unit in AESA responsible for implementing, monitoring and enforcing the PESO.

As part of its preventive approach to safety, AESA has published three brochures on general aviation that are intended to disseminate useful information and a series of recommendations that can help users to learn the main hazards involved in this type of aviation and how to keep safety occurrences from happening.

### BROCHURES

1. Recommendations for avoiding bird strikes.
2. Operational Air Traffic recommendations.
3. Training, maintenance and operational recommendations.

## Contact information

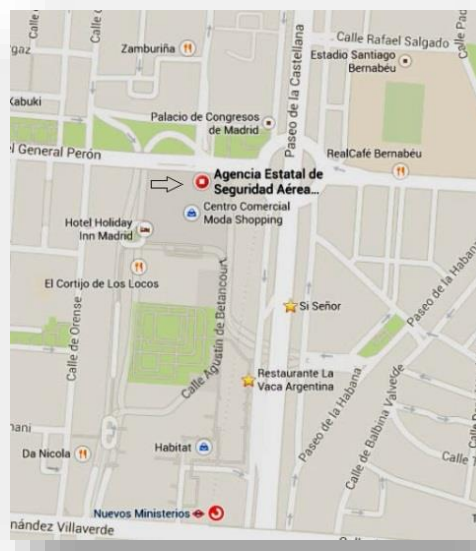
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# Spanish Aviation Safety and Security Agency

## Recommendations for avoiding bird strikes

Courtesy Translation

**Note:** This brochure was republished as part of a three-part series of brochures devoted to general aviation safety.



MINISTERIO  
DE FOMENTO



## Recommendations for avoiding bird strikes

- When making the flight plan, review any documentation available on the permanent or seasonal presence of birds and on flying over nature reserves.
- Be mindful of the emergency procedure to follow in the event of a bird strike.
- If at all possible, avoid low altitudes to reduce the risk of a bird strike (only 1% of bird strikes happen above 2,500 feet, according to the FAA).
- At low altitudes in particular, avoid flying along coastlines or rivers, since birds, like pilots, use them to navigate.



- Be particularly careful when flying over inland bodies of water, such as reservoirs, lakes, rivers, etc., since they are usually home to bird populations.

If you spot a bird, climb, since birds tend to descend when they encounter a larger “bird”.

- On approach, reduce speed, even by half. This will allow birds to change direction and avoid hitting you, since normally, up to around 80-90 knots, a bird can change course if it notices the presence of an aircraft. And if you do strike it, it will be less severe, since a lower speed can reduce the impact force by up to 75%.
- Keep in mind that birds can also fly at night.

- When flying at low altitudes for long periods, wear a helmet, protective goggles and keep the beacons on to make your aircraft more visible.



- Consider turning on the cockpit window heater. This will make the glass more flexible and therefore more resistant to a bird strike.