



CORPUS CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Wildlife Bulletin

WINTER 2014

Coyotes on the Prowl

Skirting the edges of the city limits, the Corpus Christi International Airport occasionally has visitors of the four-legged variety. Coyotes have been spotted lurking on the perimeter of the property, and every now and again, one will find his or her way inside the fence and headed toward the airfield. The controllers at the Air Traffic Control Tower have done a great job alerting Public Safety and Operations whenever this happens, allowing personnel from the airport to respond quickly to get the animals away from the runways, taxiways, and ramp areas. Oftentimes, only a vehicle horn or siren is needed to frighten away coyotes; although occasionally, the use of pyrotechnics must be utilized to chase away the most stubborn animals that refuse to leave the property.

In the last five years, there has only been one reported instance of a wildlife strike involving a coyote (source: FAA Wildlife Strike Database). The animal was located in the center of the runway and was not struck; however, the aircraft involved in the incident aborted the landing and had to do a go-around, which necessitated the need for a wildlife strike report to be filed.



In addition to vehicular harassment and pyrotechnics, the airport has been utilizing other methods to try to deter coyotes from entering the property. The Airfield Maintenance crew has built and installed “coyote blockers” along storm water inlets where coyotes had previously been squeezing their way in. The devices allow water to flow but keeps the animals out. Areas that have seen higher activity of coyotes (tracks, several holes beneath the fence, etc.) have been sprayed with ammonia and moth balls have been left in place as per US Fish & Wildlife Service

recommendation. The combined odor has been successful in deterring coyotes away from these problem areas. Coyote activity has been down in recent years, most likely due to a lack of food source on the airport. With a diminished number of prey such as black-tailed jackrabbits and other small mammals, there isn't much to draw coyotes inside of the airport.

If you do see any coyotes on property, please be sure to report it to Airport Operations!

[Report Wildlife Strikes!](#)

<http://wildlife.faa.gov>

<http://www.faa.gov/wireless>

E-mail CCIA at sandrafa@cctexas.com