



Bird Strike: The Crash of the Boston Electra

By Michael N. Kalafatas

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On a warm and golden afternoon, October 4, 1960, a Lockheed Electra jet turboprop carrying 72 souls took off from Logan Airport. Seconds later, the plane slammed into a flock of 10,000 starlings, and abruptly plummeted into Winthrop Harbor. The collision took 62 lives and gave rise to the largest rescue mobilization in Boston's history, which included civilians in addition to police, firefighters, skindivers, and Navy and Coast Guard air-sea rescue teams. Largely because of the quick action and good seamanship of Winthrop citizens, many of them boys in small boats, ten passengers survived what the Civil Aeronautics Board termed "a non-survivable crash."

Using firsthand interviews with survivors of the crash, rescuers, divers, aeronautics experts, and ornithologists, as well as a wide range of primary source material, Kalafatas foregrounds the story of the crash and its aftermath to anchor a broader inquiry into developments in the aeronautics industry, the increase in the number of big birds in the skies of North America, and the increasing danger of "bird strikes." Along the way he looks into interesting historical sidelights such as the creation of Logan Airport, the transformation of Boston's industrial base to new technologies, and the nature of journalistic investigations in the early 1960s. The book is a rare instance when an author can simultaneously write about a fascinating historical event and a clear and present danger today. Kalafatas calls for and itemizes solutions that protect both birds and the traveling public.

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Editorial Review

Review

“A call to action.” —*Boston Globe*

“Kalafatas presents an extraordinary look at flight and its conflict with the environment—a conflict that is not always won by human or machine and an environment that was innocent of the threat of aircraft-bird collisions a mere century ago. Kalafatas intertwines the human drama of passengers, families, witnesses, and rescuers with the intricacies of machine and the simplicity of nature. A must read for anyone who enjoys human drama and the complexities of flight.”—*Choice*

“With the publication of *Bird Strike*, Kalafatas' name deserves to be added to that list of authentic American heroes.”—*lively-arts.com*

Review

“A riveting, well-written story. *Bird Strike* weaves the dedication and enthusiasm of two individuals, John Goglia and Roxie Laybourne, into the history of the bird strike ‘business.’ Unfortunately, the parallels of the investigations of the Boston Electra Crash and the ‘Miracle on the Hudson’ reveal that despite fifty years of catastrophic history, bird strikes remain an under-studied concern to civil aviation.” (Carla J. Dove, Ph.D., Feather Identification Lab, Smithsonian Institution)

“A timely and relevant analysis of the continuing hazard to aircraft posed by bird strikes. The dramatic landing of a US Airways A-320 Airbus in the Hudson River in 2009 after its engines were destroyed by a flock of birds can be traced directly to the failure to learn the lessons of the 1960 crash of the Eastern Airlines Lockheed Electra off Logan International Airport.” (John Goglia, independent air safety consultant and former NTSB board member)

About the Author

MICHAEL N. KALAFATAS is author of *The Bellstone: The Greek Sponge Divers of the Aegean*, and for more than twenty years served as director of admissions at Brandeis University.

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Willard Callahan:

The book *Bird Strike: The Crash of the Boston Electra* make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable far more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make reading through a book *Bird Strike: The Crash of the Boston Electra* to be your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. You may know everything if you like available and read a publication *Bird Strike: The Crash of the Boston Electra*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this guide?

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Cassie Merritt:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Bird Strike: The Crash of the Boston Electra, you could enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

Sam Hasse:

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