



**Press**

**Release**



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**For Immediate Release**

**May 9, 2023**

## **City and SAFB Attempting to Disperse Dangerous Bird Roost**

Wichita Falls, Texas- A Cattle egret roost has established itself in the southeast portion of Wichita Falls, near Bonny Drive, generating bird strike threats to general, commercial, and military aviation safety in the Wichita Falls area. The impact of birds on aircraft can cause extensive damage to an aircraft, with the potential for crashes and loss of life.

Cattle egrets are flying over the Kickapoo Downtown Airport, as well as the Sheppard AFB/Wichita Falls Regional Airport, while heading to, and upon return from feeding sites.

A Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) is being issued to advise pilots in the local area that there is an increased bird strike threat, due to this roost.

The City of Wichita Falls staff has been working with Sheppard AFB and federal wildlife officials to formulate solutions to this problem. It has been determined that the safest and most effective solution at this time, is to use propane cannons and pyrotechnics to disperse the egrets from this location. Starting May 9, 2023, dispersal operations will run daily at the roost from 6:00 pm to 8:45 pm, until the birds have been moved to a new location that does not present a threat to aviation safety.

The City of Wichita Falls and Sheppard AFB worked with property owners in the area to obtain permission to address this issue. Subsequently, the public may see City workers and equipment working in the identified area.

The last Cattle egret strike known to have occurred in Wichita Falls was in July 2013, resulting in the ejection of two Sheppard AFB pilots and the complete loss of a T-38 aircraft, valued at \$8M.

For more information contact John Burrus at (940) 761-7640

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