

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1984)
Heft: 1812

Artikel: Bird "strikes" upset airport
Autor: Farmer, Colin
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687587>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 16.07.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

ZURICH Airport is having problems with strikes. Not the human variety, which are almost unheard of in Switzerland anyway, but so-called "bird strikes" – flocks of gulls that fly into aircraft, causing extensive and expensive damage to engines and airframes. The airport authorities have thought out several ingenious ideas to keep the birds away from the runway area. But the gulls still keep coming back.

Actually, it's the environment-conscious authorities themselves who are partly to blame for the problem. When a new runway was built at Zurich in the early 1970s more than Sfr 2 million was spent on recreating the natural living conditions of the region's wildlife.

The work was carried out under the supervision of the Zurich's Geobotanical Institute – "We wanted to give nature a helping hand" – and the airport even appointed its own gamekeeper.

As a result the airport now boasts a wealth of wildlife which would do justice to a nature reserve. And incredible though it may seem, that apparently nondescript expanse of green viewed from an aircraft window actually consists of more than 500 different kinds of flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs.

It is also the habitat of countless insects and amphibious creatures, plus entire colonies of badgers, martens, foxes, rabbits, deer and ferrets.

And there are also more than 200 species of birds, including pheasants and kestrels.

And gulls galore!

A BRITISH TV team has recently been in the Swiss alpine resort of St. Moritz, filming a documentary on the Cresta Run.

ITV is preparing a 1985 programme on next winter's centenary of the Run, retracing the history of the St. Moritz sport pioneered in Victorian times by recuperating British invalids who had been advised by their Swiss doctors to try "a little light tobogganing".

In the century since then it has developed into a death-defying sport in which competitors speed down the drop at speeds of up to 90 miles an hour.

In more recent times the Cresta Run has become really international, but for many years it was dominated by the British.

ITV has unearthed from British and Swiss archives a wealth of film material which it

Bird 'strikes' upset airport

plans to use in its centenary screening. But it believes a lot more film footage could be hidden away in other film libraries in Britain, both amateur and professional.

Swiss Observer readers and movie-makers who think they have some worthwhile material are invited to contact Sandy Gall at ITN House, 48 Wells Street, London W1 (telephone 01-637 2424).

Readers in Switzerland should contact Mr Francis Geere, Press Attaché, British Embassy, Berne (031/44 50 21).

STANLEY Adams, the man who stunned the Swiss by accusing the Hoffman-La Roche pharmaceutical giant of illegal practices – claims the company sought to buy his silence with a price of a pension.

Adams, hailed as a hero among European politicians campaigning to curb the power of multinational businesses, said a senior Hoffman-La Roche official met him four times in 1981 and 1982 in Switzerland and Britain.

Contacted for comment, company spokesman Hansjoerg Renk said Hoffmann-La Roche had no knowledge of the alleged offer.

He did not rule out possible private contacts between Adams and former colleagues at Roche. But he said the question of whether Adams was officially approached with a pension offer "can be readily answered in the negative".

Ten years ago Adams reported the company, where he worked, to the European

Common Market's anti-trust division for allegedly fixing prices and eliminating competitors.

His action set off a chain of dramatic developments that landed him in jail, drove his wife to suicide and has left him jobless ever since.

At a news conference launching his book about his battle with the Basle-based drug-manufacturing giant, Adams said that the 1981-2 meetings were Roche's attempt to seek a settlement.

"They admitted privately that they had done unnecessary personal damage and went too far and wanted to correct that mistake", he claimed.

He said the company offered him a monthly pension for the rest of his life, "and it was pretty good – equal at least to what a director gets in Switzerland".

But although he says his sole income is donations from supporters, he turned down Roche's offer "because they thought they could buy me body and soul, spirit and mind".

He said he would have to drop the three suits he has filed in European courts and abandon hopes of winning a public apology. "They even wanted me to move to France to get away from the British media which had given his case prominence", said Adams, who has settled in London.

His book, *Roche versus Adams*, portrays the Maltese-born British subject as a lone individual pitted against the multiple might of bureaucracy, government and big business.

Adams said he began his campaign against Roche in 1973 after he saw how the company would "systematically eliminate competitors

...reporting from Berne

and even push up the price of drugs at precisely the moment when they were desperately needed by Third World nations to combat epidemics".

His allegations led to Roche being heavily fined by the Common Market even though it argued that its actions were accepted practice among multinationals.

In 1975 Adams was arrested by Swiss police on a charge of giving information to a foreign power and held incommunicado for 15 days. He jumped bail and was sentenced in absentia to a 12 month suspended prison term.

But his Swiss wife committed suicide while

he was detained, allegedly after being told that her husband faced 20 years imprisonment.

Adams claims there are firm indications that Roche and the Swiss government acted together against him, and says that although he has three children to support, he cannot get a job in any European industry because of his controversial image.

His book is also critical of the Common Market for having disclosed his identity to the Swiss when it began investigating his allegations. Two of the three court actions he has initiated are against the 10-nation Common Market.

One of them claims damages for "breach of confidentiality and negligence". The other seeks a ruling that the Roche affair violated a trade agreement between the Common Market and the Swiss government.

And a third action claims damages from the company "for the misinformation supplied by Roche to the Swiss authorities and for actions which led to his arrest by those authorities in 1974".

Stanley Adams ends his book with the words: "It is better to die standing upright, than to live on your knees".

Stanley Adams special report – pages 18 and 19.

Football League tables up to and including March 9

Football League tables up to and including March 9

'A' Division	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts		'B' Division	Pl	W	D	L	Gls	Pts	
Neuchatel Xamax	17	10	4	3	37	16	24	Martigny	15	9	2	4	32	17	20
Zurich Grasshoppers	16	10	3	3	35	20	23	Lugano	15	6	8	1	29	16	20
Sion	17	10	3	4	42	26	23	Mendrisio	15	6	6	3	25	18	18
St. Gallen	16	9	4	3	32	26	22	Biel	15	6	6	3	35	28	18
Geneva Servette	16	9	3	4	36	20	21	Winterthur	15	6	6	3	29	28	18
Wettingen	16	9	3	4	28	19	21	Grenchen	15	6	5	4	24	18	17
Chaux-de-Fds.	17	7	5	5	35	28	19	Sc Zug	15	6	5	4	22	20	17
Berne Young Boys	16	6	3	7	22	19	15	Chênois	15	6	4	5	20	20	16
Lausanne	15	6	2	7	27	22	14	Baden	15	6	3	6	35	35	15
Lucerne	16	6	2	8	19	26	14	Bulle	15	4	6	5	29	28	14
Vevey	16	6	2	8	26	34	14	Laufen	15	4	6	5	19	25	14
Aarau	16	4	5	7	29	29	13	Monthey	15	4	5	6	19	22	13
Basel	16	5	2	9	29	37	12	Locarno	15	3	6	6	20	26	12
Zurich	16	5	2	9	23	31	12	Zurich Red Star	15	4	2	9	27	33	10
Bellinzona	17	2	3	12	13	46	7	Fribourg	15	2	5	8	19	30	9
Chiasso	17	2	0	14	14	48	6	Basel Nordstern	15	1	7	7	14	34	9

Lines separate championship leader, relegation and promotion zones.

Lines separate championship leader, relegation and promotion zones.



VELCRO

the name to stick to

HOOK AND LOOP FASTENER

Sole UK manufacturer, Selectus Limited, Biddulph,
Stoke-on-Trent ST8 7RH. Telephone: Stoke-on-Trent (0782) 513316
Velcro is a registered trade mark of Selectus Ltd.

VELCRO®