

N X-treme and a problem most fowl

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List of Characters:

Narrator (Kristopher)

Goose (Kristopher)

Naturalist (Jeannette)

Pilot (Marc)

Myth buster Adam (Kaustubh)

Myth buster Jamie (David)

Air port manager (Michael)

Goose Busters 1 (Lindsey)

Goose Busters 2 (Elise)

Goose Busters 3 (Alex)

Technical – (Kyle)

Narrator: [walks to center and begins talking]

Team: [sets up while narrator talks]

Narrator: Hello, we are NX treme, team 3975 and the community we chose to study is the Leesburg Regional Airport in Loudoun County Virginia. This local airport handles both the air traffic of small private planes around our neighborhood as well as the overflow from Dulles International Airport. After taking a field trip to the airport and meeting with airport’s director, Mr Dikey, we discovered that bird strikes on planes, specifically those caused by Canadian Geese, present a real danger to both the planes and the pilots that fly them. And now without further ado, NX treme presents “ a problem most fowl.”

Tech: [thump sign carried across to center stage pauses]

Pilot/goose: [walk out and collide behind sign]

Team: {chorus} THUMP!

Pilot/goose: [walk shakily in opposite directions]

Tech: [exits after goose and pilot walk out]

Pilot: [pulls out phone and scrolls through contact list]

Tech: [plays telephone sound effect]

Pilot: Goose Busters... Goosebusters... busters!

Myth buster Adam: Hi, this is Adam. Can we help you?

Pilot: I hope so; we are having a really bad problem with geese at our airport?

Myth buster Adam: Hey Jamie do you remember the show we did last season on myths about bird strikes on airplanes?

Myth buster Jamie: Oh yeah that was the one where most people believed the myth that bird strikes are rare!

Myth buster Adam: This myth was busted because over 87,000 bird strikes on civil aircraft were reported to the FAA in the United States from 1990-2008. This is likely only 20% of the actual number that occurred. Canadian Geese account for the largest percentage of bird strikes in the U.S. as reported by the FAA and the USDA's Wildlife Services.

Pilot: You're not the Goose Busters are you?

Myth buster Jamie: No, we're the Myth Busters! You must have dialed the wrong number. [exit]

Pilot: [pulls out phone and dials then exits]

GB Lindsey: (enters) Uhuh... yep... Leesburg Regional Airport... okay... We'll be right over. (Turns to the team) It looks like there's a pilot at Leesburg airport that's collided with a goose.

GB Elise: Well let's get to the bottom of this fowl problem. [Walk a few steps with GB 2]

Airport manager: [enters and shoots at geese]

Tech: [walks across with BANG sign]

Goose: [turns head] Wow, looks like they got Fred. Oh well..... [turns back down to eat more.]

GB Alex: You know geese are an important part of the eco-system and shooting them won't do you any good. If you kill them what moves in and takes their place might be even worse.

Airport manager: Well we've tried several non-lethal measures. We even shot an air cannon which make a huge noise, but after a while they just start to ignore it. As you just saw, the geese don't even seem to mind when another one of them get killed. The only thing that seems to scare them is when a

plane takes off or lands. Then the whole flock seems to take off. Occasionally they get so scared they fly right into the planes and damage them or worse cause them to crash. [Chases goose off stage]

GB Lindsey: Perhaps we should talk with the pilot to see what kind of damage the bird caused. [Walk a few steps]

Pilot: (talking to self) Blasted goose! Why did it have to crash into my plane?! The dumb bird disabled my wing.

GB Elise: I'm sorry to hear that, but don't worry; you called the right people for this job.

Tech: [plays goose busters' song]

Naturalist: Hi, I am a naturalist and I happened to be passing through when I heard you discussing your goose problem. Did you know that in the past 20 years over 1,100 bird strikes have been reported that were caused by Canadian geese? Scientists believe that this may be due to the fact that geese are no longer migrating with the shifting seasons but are staying in some areas like Leesburg all year. The non-migratory Canada goose population in North America increased about 4-fold from 1 million in 1990 to 3.9 million in 2008.

Naturalist: And did you know that most bird strikes occur during landing at altitudes of 1000 feet or below?

ALL GB's: Yes, and we are here to help! We are the Goose Busters after all.

Tech: [plays goose busters' song]

Naturalist: [exits]

Goose Busters: (re-enter after Naturalist finishes)

Airport Manager: (enters) Well have you any idea of what we should about my goose problem and make this a safer airport?

GB Lindsey: Yes I think we can provide you with a very innovative solution to this fowl problem.

GB Elise: Currently some companies such as Bird Raptor Internacional have developed robotic radio controlled birds of prey, such as hawks, to chase away the birds.

GB Alex: This works great except that it doesn't deter the geese on the ground and someone has to control the hawks.

GB Lindsey: Some of the bigger airports have started using herding dogs, such as border collies, to chase the geese away, but this strategy requires a big budget to support a dog handler and a kennel.

GB Elise: Some airports are spraying area around the runways with chemicals that make the grass taste bad to the geese. Since eating is one of the main reasons they land there, this takes way a reason for the geese to gather.

GB Lindsey: This method has worked, except that the chemicals need to be re applied every four days.

Airport Manager: Okay, so what can you guys do to help me?

GB Lindsey: Well....

Kyle: [plays goose busters' song]

GB Lindsey: Introducing the new, the innovative, the XTREME in airport bird control the GB9000! The first ground based, fully autonomous goose-busting robot.

GB Alex: The GB9000 is an electric powered, treaded robot that can cover rough terrain in all weather conditions, and its battery is recharged using solar panels.


GB Elise: It has built-in GPS to pinpoint its location and multiple sensors to synchronize with the other GB9000's you may have at the airport to coordinate attacks on geese.

GB Lindsey: It also features a synthetic coyote skin to scare the geese, and the GB9000 is also equipped with many other non-lethal, goose deterring systems.

GB Alex: It has a low-voltage taser in its mouth to shock the most stubborn of geese. It also has a powerful sound system that produces both ultrasonic and audible sounds, such as predator and goose alarm calls.

GB Elise: The robot is fast and maneuverable enough to attack a goose head-on, similar to the action of a herding dog. It finds its targets using infrared sensors and goose recognition software.

Airport Manager: Very impressive and just what I need!

Narrator: We hope you enjoyed our presentation. We have also shared this presentation at 

Narrator: Thank you for listening and please remember....

Kyle: [plays goose busters' song]

When there's something fowl, in your neighborhood, who you going to call...

All: GOOSEBUSTERS!

END