

Free as a Bird

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Flight of birds has always been a great source of inspiration. Flapping flight looks so easy when executed by birds, but is as we all know very difficult to implement into an aircraft; being a challenge we decided to take a closer look at flapping flight in this year's aircraft project at Linköping University.

Why then flapping flight? There is a never ending, steady growing, interest for more information on what the other guy is doing behind the fence or around the corner; to do that it would be handy to use something of a small flying object, which is able to fly quite slowly as well as rather fast and by its size and appearance being rather difficult to detect. This would favour birdlike flight and since it's now becoming increasingly possible to really make very small UAV:s fly due to the present revolution in microelectronics (low power consumption, low weight), we thought why not giving it a try.

The goal was set up high initially: the aircraft should be battery powered and be able to fly a circuit being defined as a figure of eight at least two laps; the payload is a video camera, which should be used on the way around the circuit to transmit live pictures down to ground.

The oral presentation will give more details on the project and the result of the contest.

