

Birdstrike risk Forecast for the beginning till mid- April 2026

Bird migration continues to play a role concerning the strike risk, however, the passage of large, heavy species such as Nordic geese and swans, ducks and cranes is almost finished. Last migrants and wintering guests are still being reported in coastal areas and wetlands in northern Germany. Many great egrets have left, while the abundance of grey herons remains constant and breeding is beginning across the country. In April, the birdstrike risk is slightly decreasing at German airports, partly because many species no longer occur in flocks at the start of the breeding season.

Black kites, black redstarts and swallows are currently being reported migrating north-eastwards across Germany and soon the first common swifts will be occurring. The migration of passerines mostly takes place at night while raptors, crows, gulls, herons, storks and cranes as well as waterfowl use the daily hours. Migrating birds must generally be expected in heights up to 8,000 ft. At the airports currently appear - next to the mentioned species - especially crows and raptors, using especially the shortly mown areas for foraging. Additionally, crows start breeding now and trees serve as nesting sites for carrion crows, rooks, hooded crows as well as Western jackdaws (see below), with rooks breeding in colonies. With exception of rooks, these species may also use buildings or lighting columns for nesting.

For your flight preparation please also use the birdtam chart provided under the following link <https://www.notams.faa.gov/common/birdtam.html>



Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*), above left; Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), above right; Western Jackdaw (*Coloeus monedula*), below left; Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*), below right.