

## Birdstrike risk forecast for mid-April till mid-May 2026

Bird migration activity is now dominated solely by long-distance migrants, though the risk of birdstrikes remains high at German airports. The Nordic overwintering guests have almost entirely departed; small flocks are still being reported in northern Germany, although some of these are already breeding birds.

Large flocks of black kites migrating north-east are currently being reported, the first Eurasian hobbies are arriving, and sightings of corn buntings are clearly increasing across the country. Many house martins and barn swallows (see below) are being observed across Germany, and their numbers will rise considerably by the end of the month. The first common swifts (see below) are also arriving, however, due to their low weight, these three species pose hardly any risk to aircrafts. At airports, flocks of crows, starlings and gulls are to be expected, particularly during the mowing of transmitter fields in May, as they find excellent foraging conditions in the short grass. The same applies to common buzzards and common kestrels. Crows and pigeons have occupied their nesting places at the airports, which usually leads to sightings of smaller flocks, and many small birds and raptors start breeding as well.

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



Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*), above left; Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), above right; Common Swift (*Apus apus*), left.