

Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till mid-April 2021

Bird migration still impresses the birdstrike events at German airports, but from experience that will slightly decrease in April. For the most parts short- and middle-distance migrants have already reached their breeding areas, but the long-distance migrants are still on the way. But the risk of damages in strikes is rather low as mostly small bird species are concerned. An exception are black kites (see below) who currently massively migrate and also several white storks, black redstarts and white wagtails reach Germany. Furthermore, passing starlings, Eurasian skylarks, redwings and fieldfares are currently reported more frequently and the first swallows have arrived. Common wood pigeons (see below) and Northern lapwings are strongly notified and have started breeding and they occur at airports quite regularly. A reduced, average flock size of most species, which mostly occur in pairs with the beginning of the breeding season and defend their territory, is also leading to a slightly decreased birdstrike risk.

The abundances of Nordic geese and swans, except barnacle geese, are clearly decreased in the North and East of Germany and some individuals partially already nest here. Currently in contrast Eurasian wigeons and dunlins (see below) increasingly gather at the coast regions before their withdrawal to northern and north-eastern breeding areas. Most of the reported cranes are meanwhile breeding in Germany and they mostly stay in big wetlands and plain tracts in Lower Saxony, Brandenburg and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Bird migration takes place during day and night hours but often increasingly around sunrise und sunset and is mostly limited to heights below 8.000 ft.

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



Black Kite (*Milvus milvus*), above left
Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), above right;
Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), below left;
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) below right