

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end of April 2025

The passage of short- and middle-distance migrants is complete, but long-distance migrants continue to arrive here and thus influence the birdstrike events. The number of Nordic geese has become very low while sightings of cranes remain constant and breeding abundances in the north and east of Germany are further increasing. In addition to bird migration, the courtship and the establishment of territory for many species started, which could also lead to strikes due to the bird's lower vigilance. This includes residential breeding birds such as Eurasian skylarks, white wagtails and black redstarts (see below), which barely cause any damages due to their low weight. The number of corn buntings (see below) as well as swallows and common swifts is also increasing significantly. Crows, pigeons and grey herons already started breeding which could lead to a lower activity at the airports.

The activity of most bird species is meanwhile limited to the daytime hours and heights below 1.000 ft, with only long-distance migrants increasingly occurring at night and in larger heights. Heights of 8.000 ft are generally not exceeded, but raptors might occur in these areas during the day if wind conditions are favourable. Currently common buzzards and common kestrels as well as crows must be expected at the airports, using the green areas for foraging and could establish nests in woods or on technical structures.

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



Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), above left; Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochrurus*), above right; White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), below left; Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*), below right.