

## Birdstrike risk forecast for the mid of April till the mid of May 2022

Within the next weeks migrating birds must still be expected at German airports. And together with breeding birds like Eurasian skylarks, crows, Northern lapwings or pigeons they pose a risk to the aviation at and around airports. Large flocks of passing thrushes can still be seen across Germany and the numbers of black kites are increasing rapidly. The same applies for swallows (see below) which occur increasingly throughout the country and will reach their maximum abundances in May. Despite their flocking behaviour, high flight activity and unpredictable movements they don't pose a high risk to the aviation due to their low weight.

In May mowing starts at airports and attracts birds like common buzzards, common kestrels, white storks or grey herons. They pick up injured or dead prey upon the ground and short grassland represents suitable foraging areas. The activity of most birds is restricted to daylight; however, long-distance migrants must be expected during night as well. Usually, they use heights up to 6,000 ft, though some raptors might appear even higher during favourable wind conditions.

During breeding mean flock sizes of many species are very small and the home range is reduced as well. However, non-breeding individuals use larger areas through local movements and especially geese, swans or storks and herons pose a risk to aviation around airports.

For your flight preparation please also use the birdtam chat 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*), below