

## Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till mid of April 2020

During the next two weeks we still expect an increased birdstrike risk due to migration of many birds. However, large and heavy bird species mostly finished their migration and only long-distance migrants are still on their way. These include mostly small passerines that normally do not cause damage to aircraft. The abundances of Nordic Geese and swans in northern and eastern Germany have decreased substantially whereas greylag geese stay constant and start their breeding season. Most cranes, white storks and red kites arrived at their breeding grounds already, however, one must expect local movements of these species as well as of greylag geese. Such movements normally take place below 600 ft, whereas migration occurs up to 6.000 ft. Especially waders and passerines migrate at night and activity peaks are often located around dusk and dawn.

The anew onset of winter with cold north-eastern winds last week led to an increased migration activity of thrushes and the return of swallows is delayed as well. Numbers of lapwings, starlings and wood pigeons on the other hand further rise and often already started their breeding season. Abundances of grey herons (see below) are constant and breeding behavior is displayed, while great egrets decrease. Furthermore, observations of gulls are less and they are seen courting as well. At and around airports flocks of crows and gulls as well as common buzzards and kestrels (see below) have to be expected at any time. Especially due to low aircraft movements the airport grounds represent ideal habitats for many birds with little disturbance leading to an increased birdstrike risk.

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



Grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), left; Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), middle; Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), right