

Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till the mid of August 2021

The breeding period is nearly finished, nevertheless there is still an increased birdstrike risk at German airports. On the one hand, young unexperienced raptors like buzzards and common kestrels, which often hunt directly at or on the runway, pose a risk. Young birds often gather in flocks and adult birds of common buzzard or red kite are also more sociable during foraging after the breeding period so that they may occur more frequently at the airports. Grey herons, Northern lapwings and starlings currently gather in large flocks, migrating to new foraging sources like orchards, vineyards and wetlands but generally they only reach maximum heights of 2.000 ft.

On the other hand, bird migration of some species starts in August. These are mainly early migrating common swifts and waders, partially also small passerines. For example, the abundances of Eurasian skylarks and corn buntings have clearly decreased, while shorebirds are currently gathering on the coasts. Gathering places are also located in the region of Lake Constance or in big plain tracts and local waterfowl concentrations may occur. Currently big flocks of gulls are as well reported, whereat these are mainly black-headed, mew, lesser black-backed and European herring gulls (see below). After the breeding period they gather in large flocks before their migration to their overwintering grounds – young birds often before the adult birds – and then they often occur more and more at the airports.

Waders and passerines often migrate during night and in heights up to 6.000 ft. Furthermore, the first raptors and storks start in the southern direction during the next weeks, using the thermal lift. They migrate during day like swallows and swifts. Winds from north-eastern directions favour the start of the bird migration to their overwintering grounds, while thunderstorms, precipitation and storms can delay this locally.

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



Black-headed Gull (*Larus croicocephalus*) in resting plumage, above left; Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), above right; Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), below left; European Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), Adult and Young Bird, below right.

