

Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till mid-August 2022

The breeding season is mostly finished but the birdstrike risk at German airports stays at a high level. Young, inexperienced raptors like buzzards and common kestrels still pose a risk while sitting directly at or on the runways or hunting above the green areas. Young birds join in flocks and adults are also much more sociable during foraging after the breeding season so that they could occur more often at the airports. Furthermore, Northern lapwings and starlings gather in larger flocks, executing commuting flights to new foraging sources like orchards, vineyards, and wetlands, however, maximum heights of 2.000 ft are generally just obtained. Mowing and harvesting at the airports and in the environment further attract many birds and larger abundances of crows, gulls, raptors as well as herons and storks must be expected at the airports during and shortly after mowing.

Additionally, the bird migration of some species starts in August. Predominantly early migrating common swifts and waders are concerned, partially also small passerines. Swallows (see below) are still reported in constant high abundances, but the flock size is clearly increasing. However, the numbers of Eurasian skylarks and corn buntings are clearly decreased while shorebirds currently gather in large flocks at the coasts. Currently especially dunlins and curlew sandpipers are concerned (see below). Assembly points can be found at Lake Constance or at large plain tracts as well and local waterfowl concentrations could occur. Also, white storks and cranes can be seen in increasingly larger flocks. Waders and passerines often migrate during night and in heights of up to 6.000 ft. North-eastern winds favour the beginning of the bird migration to their overwintering sites, while thunderstorms, rain and storm could locally delay it.

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



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) above left;
Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*),
above right; Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*),
below left; Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*),
below right.

