

Birdstrike forecast for the beginning till mid of December 2019

The population of several bird species has settled down to a quite constant level and migration mostly occurs locally. However, temperature lowering and freezing waters can result in escape movements of the birds in the south-west direction anytime and for this reason the bird strike risk can be raised locally on short-term. Also large migration waves of cranes have worn off and most of the higher abundances occur at large waters or wetlands in Brandenburg or in the North of Germany. The numbers of Nordic geese stayed constant but from experience rising numbers are soon expected in the North and East of Germany. Numbers of Whooper and Bewick's swans (see below) increase at coastal areas and lowlands and also the population of widgeons (see below) is on a solid high level. The occurrence of these birds has to be expected predominantly at bigger waters in the North of Germany.

Numbers stay constant for thrushes and they are registered all over Germany, except redwings whose population further drops. Quiet constant population sizes throughout Germany also apply for herons, black-headed gulls, rooks, wood pigeons and starlings whereas lapwings occur mostly in the North. The manoeuvring areas are still attractive food habitats for crow-like birds, raptors and gulls, but currently abundances are generally rather low at many airports. Local commuting flights take place across the day and yet heights of 600 ft are rarely exceeded. Single migration moves of cranes or waterfowls can be registered up to heights of 30.000 ft, but are limited to lightness and happen in lower height mostly.

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



Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) above left,
Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*)
above right, Widgeon (*Anas penelope*) below