

## Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till mid December 2022

Bird populations in Germany are currently declining significantly which is also reflected in a low birdstrike rate in December. The departure of the short-distance migrants continues so that the populations of red kite, redwing, cormorant, Northern lapwing and Eurasian skylark are clearly decreased. The passage of cranes nearly stopped, too and the currently still present individuals often already overwinter in Germany. Several Nordic geese migrated towards the Dutch coast as well, but Nordic breeding populations will reach the German coast in the next weeks.

Crows still occur in larger, often mixed flocks at the airports using the airports manoeuvring areas or respectively buildings and wood for foraging, resting and roosting. Constant populations of common buzzard and common kestrel (see below) are also reported throughout Germany while rough-legged buzzards (see below) increasingly arrive here as overwintering guests from north-eastern Europe. They occur mainly in the north and east of Germany and use the airports manoeuvring areas comparable to common buzzards and common kestrels to hunt small mammals, especially at the shortly mown grass verges. Commuting flights mostly take place in heights below 600 ft and passing migrants, which use clearly larger heights, only occur very rarely. This can be seen based on the inconspicuous birdtams which just show moderate flight movements in the northwest.

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



Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) above left;  
Rough-legged Buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*),  
above right; Common Kestrel (*Falco  
tinnunculus*), below.