

## Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till mid-February 2023

Early migrants, especially short-distance migrants, and the start of courtship might lead to an increased birdstrike rate at German airports at the beginning of February. So far, large-scale bird migration does not take place. Therefore, the flight activity of most birds is restricted to 800 feet. An onset of winter, however, can lead to local migration and thereby increasing the birdstrike risk.

Observed abundances of most species are quite constant at the moment, also driven by the bland climate. Open waters and wetlands as well as rivers like Rhine, Elbe, Weser and Oder represent suitable resting and foraging grounds for geese, swans and cranes leading to an increased birdstrike risk around these areas. Transregional movements of geese along the coasts and back towards the breeding grounds in north-east can pose a risk to aviation. Decreasing numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese might indicate such movements right now.

At airports, snow-free green areas represent suitable feeding grounds, especially for crows and raptors. Furthermore, species like pigeons are soon starting with their breeding season and use airports for breeding and feeding. While common pigeons (see below) build their nests in and around buildings and feed upon waste or use green land, common wood pigeons (see below) breed in trees and buildings and feed on leaf's, grass or seeds. Stock doves are less common as foraging guests at airports and comparable to common wood pigeons as they use the green areas for feeding. All species occur throughout Germany, with the common pigeons concentrated around towns and settlements.

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



Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) left; Common Pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*), middle; Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*), right.