

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

From experience the birdstrike risk in Germany is rather low during this time as migrating birds have left. Local commuting flights below 600 ft. still take place during the day, especially posing a risk in the direct environment of the airports. This applies especially for heavy and flock-forming species like geese, swans, crows, gulls, herons, storks and cranes. The number of Nordic Geese has increased and with the forecasted onset of winter in the North of Germany further increasing populations have to be expected during the next days. Whereat bean geese and Tundra bean geese are spread all over the North of Germany, greater white-fronted geese occur mainly in the North-West and barnacle geese stay mostly at the coasts in Schleswig-Holstein. Also sightings of white storks, greylag geese, cranes and Nordic swans have increased whereat the flocks just seldom include more than 100 individuals.

Also the numbers of short distance and partial migrants clearly increased during the last week whereat cold temperatures can lead to local migration moves. Falling snow and freezing waters could also intensify such movements during the next weeks, thereby increasing the birdstrike risk at and around the airports. At the moment mainly starlings, common wood pigeons, fieldfares and Northern lapwings (see below) are among the accumulated sightings, whereat the last-mentioned especially stays at the North Sea coast and alongside the Rhine whereas the other species nearly occur all over Germany (focus on the western half). Also reporting of grey herons and great egrets have increased and these species have to be expected at and around the airports all over Germany.

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



Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), above left; Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), above right; Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*), below left; Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), below right.