

## Birdstrike risk forecast for the mid- till the end of June 2022

Bird abundances are rather constant in Germany now and the risk of birdstrikes remains very high. Next to inexperienced young birds, a high level of activity of the adults searching for food for their offspring also increases the risk of birdstrikes. Light weighted species like larks, swallows and swifts are now often affected but hardly cause any damages. However, the current high-pressure weather leads to higher flight altitudes of the insect hunters so that collisions on the airport ground take place more infrequently compared to low-pressure conditions.

Tall vegetation with blossoms and seeds which occur at the airports right now, serve as food for pigeons so that currently common wood pigeons and stock doves (see below) must be expected at the airports manoeuvring areas. Paved areas are further used as resting places and to pick up little stomach stones while trees and buildings are used as breeding places. Feral pigeons (see below) stay more near buildings and also use anthropogenic waste. Furthermore, mowing attracts storks, raptors or gulls and commuting flights of these species must be expected up to heights of 500 ft during the day. The first and respectively the last hours of the day represent a particularly critical period with a generally increased activity of birds. At the coasts of Germany larger gatherings and commuting flights of water birds must be expected. In the east and north cranes often wander around while non-breeding geese occur 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>



Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), above left (please note: young birds without white spot at the throat);  
Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*), above right.  
Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*), below (please note: colouring is very variable)