

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end of March 2023

Bird migration continues to clearly determine the birdstrike risk at German airports, which is increased till the end of March. Strong south-westerly winds currently occur across large parts of Germany leading to increased passage of birds and high abundances of species like common cranes, Northern lapwings, Eurasian skylarks, white wagtails, redwings and black-headed gulls. Most common cranes are still seen at Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse, except for except Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg where they occur throughout Germany. Most of these species use heights below 3.000 ft, but especially cranes and geese are observed in heights of more than 12.000 ft. Bird migration must be expected during day and night, however, highest activity often appears during the hours around dusk and dawn. As expected, the numbers of Nordic geese, swans and ducks are clearly decreasing now, but they still pose a risk to aviation at the coasts.

Beneath bird migration, the onset of the breeding season adds to an increased birdstrike risk. Crows and grey herons (see below) already started breeding and Eurasian skylarks, waders and pigeons are observed at airports through courtship and nest-building. The beginning of breeding behaviour is also reflected in the mean flock size of birds as they often occur alone or pairwise right now.

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



Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*) above left; Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), above right; Western Jackdaw (*Coloeus monedula*), below left; Grey Heron (*Ardea alba*), below right.