

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid of March till the end of March 2020

Till the end of the month the birdstrike risk is going to increase further at the German airports. Short and middle distance migrants mostly arrived here and many already started with their breeding behaviour. Also the first long distance migrants like black kites returned to Germany and till the end of the month the first swallows have to be expected. Nordic geese show constant to slightly decreasing numbers and an augmentation has not be expected till the end of the month. The same applies for Bewick's and whooper swans whereas grey geese increased significantly. Local commuting flights of these species between resting, foraging and breeding places close to airports have to be expected especially in the North of Germany. The population of white storks further rose, however cranes stayed constant and their flock size mostly stays well under 100 individuals. Their migration is largely finished and in many cases breeding activities started in North and East Germany so that only local limited flight activities have to be expected.

Middle-thrushes and redwings (see below) currently increase significantly whilst the population of field fares (see below) stays constant and they start with their breeding behaviour. Starlings still migrate in bigger numbers in the northern direction above Germany and in doing so flocks up to 100.000 individuals may occur. Similar counts for wood pigeons (see below) whereas the flock size mostly is under 1.000 birds. Also the numbers of gulls, lapwings, skylarks, white wagtails and black redstarts have finally clearly increased and except the gulls, all start with their breeding behaviour.

Local movements of the avifauna take place under 600 ft and at as well as around the airports crows, raptors, pigeons and gulls have to be expected. After migration activities of geese and cranes mostly dropped, most of the migrants are registered in heights of 6.000 ft. Migrating flocks of birds occur during day as well as during night but mostly focus on the hours around dawn.

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



Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*), above left;
Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*), above middle;
Mistle-Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*), above Right;
Wood-Pigeons (*Columba palumbus*), below