

Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till mid of May 2025

The registered abundances of most bird species are currently constant. Reasons for this are that the bird migration of many species is nearly completed and breeding has started. This is also shown in the smaller flock sizes of several bird species. The numbers of Eurasian hobbies and European honey buzzards (see below) as well as of migrating waders in the coastal areas have further increased while redwings and fieldfares have continued to decline. Swallows also occur increasingly and several common swifts (see below) have already reached Germany. However, the damage rate for birdstrikes involving these species is very low due to their weight. The current high-pressure weather conditions often cause higher flight heights of insect hunters, so that strikes on the airport areas are somewhat rarer than in low-pressure-conditions.

Commuting flights of geese, crows, gulls, herons, storks and cranes between sleeping, resting and foraging areas also pose a risk to aviation as they often take place at very low heights below 300 ft in the vicinity of airports. They only occur during the day, while long-distance migrants sometimes travel at night. Nevertheless, the birdstrike events are generally limited to the lightness phases.

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



Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*),
above left; European Honey Buzzard
(*Pernis apivorus*), above right;
Common Swift (*Apus apus*), below.