

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

By experience the birdstrike risk is again slightly rising till the end of the month what can be explained predominantly by breeding birds at airport areas. Low temperatures in many places in connection with rainfall resulted in a migrating stop of swifts but currently bigger flocks can be seen again and also honey buzzards increasingly arrive in Germany. The activities of birds during incubation of the clutch are lower so that most species currently can be seen in lower numbers. The registered bird flocks are mostly rather small with exception of bigger breeding colonies and the home range of the adult birds is limited due to their breeding behaviour. But especially in the North and East of Germany non-breeding individuals of species like gray geese, cranes, white storks or cormorants have to be expected on commuting flights.

Commuting flights of birds between the different habitats mostly take place below 500 ft so that the birdstrike risk is generally increased at the airport or in the airports environment. But these movements have to be expected at every airport in Germany especially at places with extensive grassland and bigger waters in the surroundings. These movements mostly take place during the day.

Crows, common buzzards, kestrels, wood pigeons, domestic pigeons, gray herons, lapwings as well as swallows and skylarks are among the frequently occurring breeding birds at airports and their surroundings. Their appearance has to be expected at the airports manoeuvring areas at any time and flights over the airport or their approach corridor can take place regularly. The numbers of crows, rooks or jackdaws (see below) often clearly increase now as fledglings raise the population. Especially bigger flocks or unexperienced young birds can pose a risk although they are rarely involved in accidents due to their adaption to the air traffic.

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



Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone corone*), above left; Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), above right; Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*), below.

Please note that the beak of young rooks is still dark (see carrion crow)