

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end of May 2023

Long-distance migrants also reached their breeding grounds and only European honey buzzards are observed in increasing abundances right now. Hence the large-scale migration does not have an impact on the birdstrike risk at German airports until the end of May. Commuting flights between feeding, breeding, sleeping and resting places, which take place in low heights under 300 ft, pose a risk for aviation in the vicinity of airports. This applies especially for large species like geese, storks and herons, which occur throughout the country.

The number of swallows and swifts is high, but due to the low weight they do not rpose a risk for aviation. At airports starlings (see below) are seen in rising numbers as the first young fledge now. Comparable to crows and gulls they prefer short grass areas for foraging. Pigeons (see below) also finished their first breeding attempt and use buildings and wood for following broods. Green areas represent suitable foraging grounds for these species, too, and besides the use of buildings, pigeons are often observed at sealed ares on airports.

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



Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) above left; Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*, caution: young without white spot at the neck), above right; Common Pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*), below left; Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*), below right.