

Birdstrike forecast from mid till the end of November 2019

Bird migration tremendously dropped in the last week und will further be reduced by the end of the month. For most species the overall observations as well as the flock size clearly dropped. Cranes still are most frequently reported in Hesse and Lower-Saxony, but can be found on a belt from Brandenburg to Rhineland-Palatinate as well. Also the number of Nordic geese has dropped what could be an indication for a migration towards the Dutch coast. Big wetlands alongside rivers or wetlands close to the coast are still popular resting grounds. Therefore bird migration and commuting flights of the avifauna have to be expected especially at the North- and Baltic Sea as well as at the Weser, Rhine and Elbe.

In contrast fieldfares and cormorants (see below) still possess constant population sizes whereat first occur throughout Germany while cormorant appearance focus more on the Baltic coast and Saxony. Yet they appear alongside streaming waters throughout Germany till far in the inland. Also seagulls, except the black-headed gull, can be seen in constant numbers, mostly at the North-Germany lowland. At the manoeuvring area of airports crows, raptors and herons have to be expected, though first ground frosts make search for food difficult for birds. The number of great white egrets (see below) shows a high annual variation but at the moment they are reported nearly as often as the local grey herons so that these species have to be expected at airports during the next months.

Bird migration still takes place mostly during dawn and day hours and heights up to 10.000 ft. are rarely exceeded though. Local commuting flights on the other hand occur up to 500 ft. and pose a risk for air traffic especially within the manoeuvring areas and its direct surroundings.

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



Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) above left,
Great White Egret (*Ardea alba*) above right,
Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) below