

Birdstrike risk forecast from the mid till the end of November 2020

From experience the birdstrike risk slightly decreases till the end of the month as the bird migration of many species is finished. Geese numbers are currently constant and bigger abundances mostly occur at the coasts in the North and East of Germany or at bigger waters and wetlands. Similar counts for the cranes that currently still migrate in smaller and middle flocks in south-westward direction through Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia. In contrast the numbers of the Nordic species Tundra swan and whooper swan (see below) have clearly increased whereas they mostly stay at the coasts and bigger waters in the North of Germany. Resting and overwintering individuals of all of these species pose a risk for the aviation especially during their commuting flights between different habitats close to the airports. The bird migration generally takes place during day and night but except for cranes it focusses on heights below 6.000 ft.

Warm, dry weather and strong wind from south-west currently delay the take-off of the short-distance migrants in many places so that bigger abundances of redwings and fieldfares are still reported all over Germany. Also numbers of starlings, Northern lapwings and common wood pigeons only drop slowly. In contrast the numbers of great cormorants (see below) have clearly increased and even so the extension focus is still at the Baltic Sea, they can already be seen at waters and in urban areas all over Germany. Also the abundances of black-headed and European herring gull as well as the great egret have slightly increased whereas the numbers of the grey heron nearly doubled in comparison to the figures of end of October. These species overwinter in Germany and thereby use the coast regions but also wetlands and waters in the rest of the country. Besides herons and gulls bigger flocks of crows as well as abundances of common buzzards and common kestrels currently have to be expected at the airports.

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



Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), above left;
Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*), above right; Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) below