

Birdstrike risk forecast for the middle till the end of November 2021

From experience, the birdstrike risk will further decrease until the end of the month as the migration of many species is finished by now. Red kites, redwings, Nordic ducks, starlings, common wood pigeons, shorebirds and Eurasian skylarks are currently reported less but still migrate across large parts of Germany. The abundances of cranes and Nordic geese are constant while greylag geese are reported more frequently. Large wetlands along rivers or lowlands represent attractive resting areas for these species, so that migration and commuting flights of the avifauna must be expected especially on the North- and Baltic Seas, as well as on the Weser, Rhine and Elbe. In contrast the numbers of Tundra and whooper swans (see below) have significantly increased although they stay mainly at the coasts and bigger waters in northern and eastern Germany. Resting and overwintering individuals of all these species pose a risk for the aviation, especially on their commuting flights below 500 ft between the different habitats close to the airports.

Rather mild, dry weather can delay the departure of some short-distance migrants or respectively extend the length of the stay of resting birds. An increased population of cormorants and fieldfares are currently reported and the same applies for grey herons and great egrets (see below). These species often overwinter in Germany using wetlands and waters throughout Germany. Currently many sleeping or roosting places of crows and gulls are established which could lead to an increased birdstrike risk if they are situated near the airports. Crows like to use trees while gulls are often on the roofs. Soil cultivation of fields and grassland can also attract crows, raptors, gulls and pigeons in the vicinity of airports and could therewith increase the birdstrike risk.

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;
Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), below left;
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*), below right.