

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid till end of October 2019

Bird migration in Germany is in full swing since a couple of days. Reason for this is a change in the weather pattern with high pressure of air and partly north-eastern winds which support the southwestward migration. During the last days tremendous conveys of wood pigeons and starlings have been reported, especially after the prevalent migration jam in many places. The biggest starling flocks, however, were registered at their roosts in the reed or in the wood. Also abundance of migrating red kites (see below) once more tends upwards significantly and currently there is a massive migration of redwings on their way from north-east to south-west. In addition the number of geese redoubled in the North and East of Germany and also other winter visitors as rough-legged buzzards (see below) arrive now. Sightings of migrating and resting cormorants grow as well as the abundance of cranes which can yet predominantly be found in the North-East of Germany. Overall the risk of bird strikes is clearly increased in the North and East of Germany especially on the coast and big waters, but enhanced bird migration activities have to be expected as well at plain tracts and large-scale standing waters in the inland. Most bird species cross Germany on wide front and use mostly heights up to 10.000 ft. The bird migration takes place during day as well as during night time.

The green areas of airports currently represent attractive resting grounds for pigeons, starlings, raptors, thrushes and skylarks, which use especially the short-cut areas for foraging. Furthermore, large water birds which stay in the surroundings pose a risk for aviation on their commuting flights over the airport grounds or the approach corridors.

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



Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*) left, Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) middle, Rough-legged Buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*) right