

Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till mid-October 2025

The bird migration of many species starts in direction of the overwintering areas in the south/south-west and leads to an increased birdstrike risk at German airports and the vicinity. Migrating species must be expected during the day and night, while the highest activity often occurs around dusk and dawn. Most species use heights below 8,000 ft, but in particular geese and cranes could occur in travel height as well. Most long-distance migrants have already left Germany, however, short- and middle-distance migrants still appear quite often in large flocks. Among others these are currently thrushes (see below), but also starlings, cranes, geese, Nordic ducks, black redstarts and Eurasian skylarks. Many of these species occur throughout Germany and migrate in broad front in southern/south-western direction, but especially geese appear in the northern half and cranes in a corridor from Brandenburg to Palatinate.

In addition to bird migration, local commuting flights of many species between resting, sleeping and foraging areas must be expected, although these generally take place below 600 ft. These are currently especially geese, gulls and crows, but due to their low flight altitude, they only pose a risk in the immediate vicinity of the airports. Currently or respectively in the next few weeks another mowing will take place at many airports, which often attracts large flocks of starlings, gulls and crows as well as flocks of herons, storks and cranes, common buzzards and common kestrels.

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



Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*), above left; Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) above right; Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), below left; Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*), below right.