

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end October 2024

Bird migration towards the south and south-west currently leads to a high birdstrike risk at German airports. It takes place during the day and at night, however, the highest activity is often around dusk and dawn. Most species migrate in heights below 8,000 ft but especially geese and cranes could occur up to cruising heights. Most long-distance migrants have already left Germany, but short- and middle-distance-migrants still appear very frequently and often in large flocks. These currently include thrushes (see below) but also cranes, cormorants, common wood pigeons, shorebirds, gulls and Eurasian skylarks. These species generally occur throughout Germany and they migrate on broad front in southern/southwestward direction. The numbers of arriving overwintering guests such as Nordic ducks and geese also increase at the coasts and large wetlands in northern Germany.

In addition to bird migration, local movements of many species between their resting, sleeping and foraging areas must also be expected, although these generally take place below 600 ft and therefore just pose a risk in the immediate vicinity of airports. This currently applies especially to geese, gulls and crows. Currently mowing takes place at many airports which often attracts large flocks of starlings and crows as well as increased numbers of common buzzards and common kestrels.

For your flight preparation please also use the birdtam chat 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.