

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end- October 2025

The large-scale bird migration in southern and south-western directions is currently leading to a high birdstrike risk at German airports. The birds migrate during the day as well as at night, while the highest activities often occur around dusk and dawn. Most species use heights below 10,000 ft, however, in particular geese and cranes could occur up to cruising height. A strong migration of cranes and common wood pigeons (see below) takes currently place, but thrushes, Nordic ducks and European herring gulls are also being reported more frequently. The number of arriving overwintering guests such as Nordic geese, but also whooper and Tundra swans (see below) is increasing, especially on the coasts and in large wetlands in northern Germany.

In addition to bird migration, local migratory movements of many species between resting, roosting and foraging areas must also be expected, however, these usually take place below 600 ft and therefore just pose a risk in the immediate vicinity of airports. These currently include mainly geese, cranes, gulls and crows. At many airports one last mowing currently takes place which often attracts large flocks of starlings and crows as well as common buzzards and kestrels.

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



Crane (*Grus grus*), above left; Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) above right; Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), below left; Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*), below right.