

## Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till the mid of October 2021

The birdstrike risk in Germany remains at a high level as the bird migration in southern and southwestern direction is in full swing. Due to current migration heights of many species up to 12.000 ft the birdstrike rate in the vicinity of airports is currently clearly increasing. Increased abundances of birds must be expected throughout the day and the night even if the peak of the migratory activity is often before or after the sunset and sunrise.

Increasing flocks of short- and middle-distance migrants like thrushes (see below), starlings, Northern lapwings and common wood pigeons are currently reported on a band from the northeast to the southwest of Germany. Also, Nordic geese like bean geese and greater white fronted geese currently occur in greater numbers in North and East Germany, but the maximum intensity is not reached yet. The mostly rather mild climate leads to a delayed departure of many short- and middle-distance migrants such as larks, black redstarts, starlings or red kites, but falling temperatures could quickly lead to increased bird activity. There are currently large populations of waders and ducks at the coasts of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea and large bird gatherings are also reported in the large river plains of Elbe, Oder, Weser and Rhine. Therefore, there is an especially high birdstrike risk in these regions. The numbers of passing and resting cranes are also increasing in such habitats in northern and eastern Germany.

The manoeuvring areas, especially the shortly mown areas, represent attractive resting and foraging areas for starlings, gulls, crows and raptors and temporarily flooded areas could further attract grey herons, mallards or Northern lapwings to airports. Large flocks of starlings and thrushes use the fence as resting or gathering place. Especially if airports are located near large flowing or standing waters, geese, swans or crows, gulls, herons, storks and cranes could pose a risk for the aviation on their commuting flights.

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



Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*), left; Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), middle; Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) right.