

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end September 2023

Increased abundances due to young birds, commuting flights as well as bird migration lead to an increased birdstrike risk at German airports in the second half of the month. The populations of long-distance migrants such as white stork, black kite, European honey buzzard, common house martin and barn swallow are clearly decreasing, and they will have almost completely left by the end of the month. Currently, flocks of swallows are often still large, and they are quite frequently seen hunting above waters throughout Germany. Short- and middle-distance migrants still stay in the surroundings of their breeding area, but often gathering there in large flocks. For example, starlings and Northern lapwings are currently appearing in large flocks using also the airports manoeuvring areas for foraging.

Due to the currently good weather in many places, the departure may still be delayed. The abundances of Eurasian hobbies are still rather constant while first migrants and overwintering guests such as thrushes (see below) increasingly arrive here. In addition to bird migration, local flights of many species between the different habitats must also be expected, but these usually take place below 600 ft and thus only pose a risk in the immediate vicinity of the airports. Migrating birds usually occur in heights up to 8.000 ft., but some may occur above that. The migration takes place during the day as well as during night while the hours around dusk and dawn are often the most frequented.

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.