

## Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till mid July 2024

Over the next few weeks the number of birdstrikes will reach its maximum at German airports, mainly due to inexperienced young birds. This concerns mainly young common kestrels and common buzzards (see below) sitting at the runways and taxiways or hunting over the green areas. Red and black kites (see below) are also soaring in the thermals and circling over the green areas, often in larger flocks. Another point for the current high birdstrike risk probability is the mass occurrence of swallows and common swifts after the young have fledged, although these just pose a little risk to the air traffic due to their low weight.

Furthermore, mowing also attracts herons and storks next to raptors and gulls as they can hunt more easily in the tilled soil and short grass. Additionally, large numbers of gulls occur occasionally at the airports, especially when it rains, using the runways as resting place or during strong heat where they are often seen hunting insects above the runways. Some species such as Northern lapwings, starlings and grey herons now perform non-directional movements after the breeding season and appear in growing flocks due to fledglings, leading to an increase of the birdstrike risk. An increased activity of the avifauna must be expected in the evening hours, whereat mostly heights below 800 ft are used by the birds.

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



Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), above left; Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), above right; Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*), below left; Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) below right.