

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end of February 2026

The ongoing wintery weather in large parts of Germany is currently leading to just a few cross-regional movements of the avifauna. However, local flights between resting, roosting and foraging areas still take place, especially to open waters and snow-free green areas. Urban areas are also now being sought out by many species due to the increased food supply. The birdstrike risk generally remains on a low level at the beginning of February in Germany and is often limited to the brightness phases. But at the illuminated airports bird movements must be expected in the dark as well, although, heights of 1,000 ft are nationwide rarely exceeded.

Many cranes have moved further south-westward and the number of shorebirds has decreased in coastal areas. Otherwise the reported abundances of relevant bird species currently remain rather constant. Nevertheless, a pullback wave of short-distance migrants must be expected with temperatures becoming milder in February.

In addition to crows, pigeons and raptors, also gulls (see below) appear now regularly at many airports. They search for food on the green areas, preferably on the shortly-mown grass and snow-free areas. Furthermore, they rest on airports apron areas and use roofs as sleeping places. When it rains, sealed surfaces, especially asphalted areas, could be mistaken for water, so that more gulls might arrive. This is particularly true for large flocks in northern Germany, while further south often smaller flocks of black-backed gulls and some large gulls are seen.

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



Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), above left; Black-headed Gull (*Croicocephalus ridibundus*), above right; European Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), below left; Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), below right.