

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end of January 2026

The local weather pattern is currently affecting the bird appearance in Germany. The past few days were marked by snow and frost, leading to a decreased occurrence of bean and graylag geese, Tundra swans and Northern lapwings. Local evasive movements of waterfowl to open waters might have occurred, a trend which could continue in cold regions. Nevertheless, the strike risk is currently rather low and the events are mostly limited to daylight hours.

The abundances of cranes (see below) are already significantly increased and the birds occur throughout Germany, with exception of large parts of Bavaria an Baden-Wuerttemberg. Short-distance migrants such as Eurasian skylarks are also being observed more frequently, but another onset of winter might again lead to an emigration in south-westward direction. Currently many cormorants and common wood pigeons (see below) are reported as well. In principle both species occur throughout Germany, however, cormorants more in the Baltic Sea region and common wood pigeons more concentrated in the western half of the country.

At the airports especially common buzzards and flocks of crows and gulls must be expected, while common kestrels are somewhat rarer. The flocks especially pose a risk to aviation during their commuting flights at dusk and dawn and gulls often gather in large numbers on the airports maneuvering areas when it rains.

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



Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), above left; Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), above right; Common Crane (*Grus grus*), below.