

Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till mid-March 2026

Bird migration intensifies during the forecast period, leading to an increased birdstrike risk in Germany. Most migratory birds use heights below 6,000 ft, however, especially geese and cranes also occur above 20,000 ft. Due to migration birdstrikes are now documented more frequently in larger heights in the vicinity of airports. Furthermore, migrating birds must be expected during the day and at night, sometimes in large flocks, but primarily in the hours before and after dusk and dawn.

The highest numbers of migratory birds are currently found close to the coasts and large river plain tracts of Rhine, Elbe, Weser and Danube, as well as at large standing waters and wetlands. The numbers of Nordic geese, which especially concentrate in the north and east of Germany, remain rather constant and this also applies to other overwintering guests and passing migrants such as redwing, fieldfare and cormorant. In contrary, an increased migration activity can be seen for red kites, Northern lapwings, starlings, cranes and white storks, which are arriving from the south-west, occur throughout Germany and successively occupy their territories. Small birds such as Eurasian skylarks and white wagtail (see below) are also seen in flocks and start occupying the territories at the airports as well. Grey herons and great egrets (see below) are also still being reported in large numbers throughout Germany and they are now beginning with nest building. During courtship and territory defense the attention of the birds is limited, which could lead to increased strikes at the airports.

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



Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), above right; Great Egret (*Ardea alba*), above middle; White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), above right; Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) below.