

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end of July 2026

The probability of bird strikes is at its peak at German airports. However, the collision risk generally extends only during daylight hours and is particularly pronounced at altitudes up to 1,000 ft. After the breeding season ends, many species roam aimlessly or seek out new food sources. Currently, large flocks of starlings - which are now frequenting orchards, wetlands, and vineyards - pose an increased risk. Fledglings, particularly kestrels and buzzards, still pose the greatest hazard alongside swallows and swifts. They also appear in flocks, especially while foraging along the edges of runways and taxiways. Herons and storks are also attracted to the mowed grass at airports and are difficult to scare away.

Waders and shorebirds along the German coast are increasing significantly, and the first migratory movements towards the southwest have been recorded. Now that the breeding season is over, gulls are appearing in large flocks and are currently foraging not only on green areas, but - especially when temperatures are higher - are also hunting insects over airport runways and surrounding green areas. While Black-headed gulls (see below) appear more or less regularly at all airports, Lesser Black-backed gull, Mew gulls, and Herring gulls (see below) are more common in northern Germany, while Yellow-legged gulls (see below) are found in the south. In particular, the short-mown safety areas at airports are preferred for foraging, and these species must always be expected near bodies of water.

For your flight preparation please also use the birdtam chart provided under the following link <https://www.davvl.de/unsere-leistungen/birdtam> and additional information under the link <https://www.flysafes-birdtam.eu/compo site track.html>



Black-headed Gull (*Larus croicocephalus*) in non-breeding plumage, above left; Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), above middle; Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*), above right; Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*), below left; European Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), adult and subadult bird, below right.