

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end of August 2026

The breeding season is finished, but the strike risk at German airports remains on a very high level. Reason for this are still inexperienced young birds, especially common kestrels, which currently cause the majority of strikes. They often hunt directly on or at the runway or above the green areas and young birds often generally gather in flocks. The adult birds are also more social while foraging after the breeding season, so that abundances might occur more frequently at the airports. Additionally, large flocks of swallows appear, however, due to their light weight, they seldomly cause damages. While the number of swallows is still rather constant, most common swift already left Germany and till the end of the month the species will be gone completely.

Alongside species like starlings, Northern lapwings and grey herons (see below) are moving to new foraging grounds, whereat the airports maneuvering areas are used as foraging habitat. This applies especially during and after mowing, when small mammals and invertebrates become available and are easily to capture in the short grass. The large-scale mowing also regularly attracts white storks (see below), which are then very hard to scare away. The migration of waders and passerines has started, so that birds must be expected also in the night and in heights up to 6,000 ft. In contrast, local commuting flights mostly just take place during daylight and in heights below 800 ft.

For your flight preparation please also use the birdtam chart provided under the following links: <https://www.davvl.de/unsere-leistungen/birdtam> or <https://www.flysafe-birdtam.eu/compo> [site track.html](#).



Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), above left; Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) above right; Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), below left; White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), below right.