

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end of October 2026

The large-scale bird migration toward the south and southwest is currently leading to a high risk of birdstrikes at German airports. The birds migrate both during the day and at night, with peak activity often occurring around dawn and dusk. In addition, very large flocks are sometimes observed, which increases the risk of damage. Most species fly at altitudes below 10,000 ft, but geese and cranes, in particular, can reach cruising altitudes. Currently, there is heavy migration of Northern Ducks, cranes, and, to some extent, shorebirds, but especially of redwings, starlings, Common Wood pigeons, and Red kites. The number of arriving winter guests, such as Northern Geese, Whooper swans, and Bewick's swans, is also increasing, particularly along the coasts and in large wetlands in northern Germany. While Greylag geese (see below) are found throughout most of Germany, Greater White-fronted geese and Tundra bean geese (see below) occurring in the northern half, and Barnacle geese (see below) are concentrated along the coasts. Short-distance movements between resting and roosting sites pose a high risk in the immediate vicinity of airports, while migrating birds flying at higher altitudes present a significant risk for climbing and descending airplanes.

Mowing is still taking place at many airports at the moment, which often attracts large flocks of starlings and crows, as well as Common buzzards and Common kestrels. Additionally, flights to and from roosting sites at dusk and dawn by crows and gulls must be expected currently.

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.flysafes-birdtam.eu/composite_track.html.



Greater white-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*), above left; Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*), above right; Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), below left; Tundra bean goose (*Anser serrirostris*), below right.