

Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till mid-September 2026

The strike risk at German airports is just slightly decreasing in September by experience. Young common kestrels and common buzzards (see below) continue to pose a high risk. They prefer hunting over shortly-mown green areas and often sit on runways or taxiways. With achievement of independence they extend their range and often occur in flocks. The number of European honey buzzards and Eurasian hobbies (see below) migrating south-westward is currently increased, particularly in coastal areas and along the Rhine. The number of migrating or resting waders and shorebirds as well as some Nordic ducks is currently increasing along the coasts as well.

Greylag geese are already gathering in large abundances and similar to swans, gulls and cranes pose a particular risk to aviation, especially during low commuting flights (< 500 ft) between resting, roosting and foraging areas. Consequently, the birdstrike risk is currently slightly increased along the coasts, at large standing waters and plain tracts, which are preferably used for gathering and resting. The average flock size of starlings, gulls and cranes is increasing, some are currently partly gathering or are in the midst of migration to new foraging grounds and with increasing migration movements the birdstrike risk during the night and in larger heights is augmenting as well.

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.



Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), above left; European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*), above middle; Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*), above left; Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) below.