

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end of September 2026

Increased bird numbers due to young birds, low commuting flights in the vicinity of the airports as well as the onset of the bird migration also lead to an increased birdstrike risk at German airports in the second half of the month. The abundances of long-distance migrants such as black kite and European honey buzzard as well as white stork, common house martin and barn swallow are clearly decreasing. The flock size of swallows, starlings, greylag geese, cranes, Nordic ducks and Eurasian skylarks are often still very high and point to the gathering before the departure in direction of their overwintering grounds. Wetlands and open areas are frequently used for this. Shorebirds and Nordick ducks currently occur in large flocks along the North and Baltic Sea, nevertheless, the departure in the West and Southwest will shortly begin.

Alongside the bird migration local migration moves of many species must be expected between the different habitats, however, these generally take place below 600 ft and therefore only pose a risk in the immediate vicinity of the airports. Migratory birds often appear in heights up to 10,000 ft, but may occasionally be found even higher. The migration takes place both during the day and at night, whereat peaks often are around dusk and dawn. After breeding carrion crows, rooks and hooded crows as well as Western jackdaws (see below) currently occur in large, mixed flocks. They use the airports for search for food, particularly the shortly mown areas and furthermore, are often seen resting and roosting in woods and on rooftops. The migration of these flocks often pose a flight safety risk, particularly at twilight.

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.



Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*), above left; Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*), above right;
Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), below left; Western Jackdaw (*Coloeus monedula*), below right.