

Birdstrike risk forecast for the beginning till mid-December 2025

The strike likeliness is further declining at German airports in December. On one hand this is due to the lower migration activity of the birds and on the other hand due to the fact that especially in bad weather just lower flight activity must be expected. Otherwise the onset of winter leads to increased local and nationwide movements of birds to open foraging grounds. This applies particularly for the coastal areas, large wetlands and inland waters, where commuting flights of geese, cranes, herons and storks are currently to be expected. However, only the lightness phases and low heights below 800 ft are being used for this.

A slight decrease in the populations of Eurasian skylarks and grey plovers has been registered, while the number of whopper swans has increased in the north. In addition to crows and raptors, larger numbers of pigeons are currently being viewed at the airports as well. Common wood pigeons (see below) occur regularly on the green areas for foraging and also use woods and buildings as resting and roosting places. Feral pigeons (see below) appear increasingly in built-up areas, where food as well as resting and roosting places are available. The roofs of heated halls are particularly attractive for these species. Starlings (see below) also occur almost everywhere throughout Germany and use especially the shortly mown green areas for foraging.

For your flight preparation please also use the birdtam chart provided under the following link <https://www.notams.faa.gov/common/birdtam.html>



Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), above left; Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*), above right; Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), below.