

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid-December 2024 till mid-January 2025

The birdstrike risk remains at a very low level over the next few weeks in Germany. Only small-scale commuting flights and evasive movements occur regularly now while large-scale bird migration is no longer taking place. Commuting and evasive movements occur particularly in frost and snow and they pose a high risk for the aviation in the vicinity of airports especially with species like herons, storks, cranes, geese and swans as well as gulls and crows. While greater white-fronted geese, Taiga bean geese and barnacle geese (see below) appear in large parts of the northern half of Germany, greylag geese (see below) occur in solid abundances throughout Germany. Commuting movements are generally non-directional and only take place during lightness.

In addition to geese, gulls are also currently being reported in larger numbers. While black-headed gulls occur throughout Germany, the other species appear more frequently along the coasts, however the mew gull is also found much further in the inland. In contrast the numbers of waders and thrushes have declined. Crows, common buzzards and common kestrels continue to use the airports maneuvering areas very regularly. Increased commuting flights to and from the sleeping places must be expected during the twilight phases which pose a risk at airports for flocks of crows and gulls. But in illuminated airport areas birds are still able to move even in the dark.

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



Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), above left; Greater white-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*), above right; Taiga Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*), below left; Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*), below right.