

Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end January 2023

Experience shows that the birdstrike events currently stay on a rather low level in Germany. Bird migration is currently not taking place, only local commuting flights below 600 ft must be expected during the day. Due to the current mild temperatures with accessible feeding grounds and a high food availability, there are hardly any large-scale movements of relevant species, but this will change quickly with sudden frost. Geese and cranes pose a very high risk on their daily commuting flights. The abundances of cranes are rather constant and in northern and eastern Germany flocks of clearly below 100 individuals mainly occur, but greater white-fronted geese and greylag geese (see below) are reported in increasing numbers. Barnacle geese (see below) occur mainly along the coasts, bean geese (see below) in the east and greater white-fronted geese (see below) in the northern half, mostly along waters and wetlands.

The bland climate has also led to an increase of short-distance migrants such as starling and common wood pigeon and great egrets are also reported in large numbers in many parts of Germany. The green areas of airports represent attractive foraging grounds for crows, gulls and raptors, especially the shortly mown strips. Gulls also often settle on runways and taxiways, especially when it rains, and often appear there during twilight as well.

For your flight preparation please also use the birdtam chat 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.