

## Birdstrike risk forecast for mid- till end January 2024

The onset of winter in many parts of Germany has led to increased abundances of many bird species in recent days. There are mainly overwintering guest on one hand but also sedentary birds on the other hand which reside here all the year. Despite these increases, the birdstrike activity generally stays on a rather low level at German airports in January.

Large flocks of Nordic geese are currently reported especially in the north and east of Germany and the numbers of overwintering guests such as fieldfare, whopper and Tundra swan and rough-legged buzzard also increased significantly. This suggests that the north-east of Europe is also affected by cold conditions. Sedentary birds or respectively short-distance migrants such as cormorant, common wood pigeon and grey heron are also showing increased numbers and most of these species occur in large parts of the country. More individuals of gulls are currently reported, too. European herring gull and mew gull (see below) are increasingly seen on the coasts and alongside the large stream systems, while black-headed gulls (see below) occur rather regularly in all federal states. Many of these species pose an increased risk on their commuting flights between foraging, resting and sleeping places in the immediate vicinity of airports, particularly where there are large-scale waters. However, the birdstrike risk is limited to the daytime hours.

At the airports the occurrence of birds is currently rather moderate. Especially crows, raptors and gulls pose a particular risk which often appear in flocks. Gulls and crows often commute across the airports manoeuvring areas around dusk and dawn and use the buildings as sleeping places.

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



Mew Gull (*Larus canus*), above left;  
European Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*),  
above right; Black-headed Gull  
(*Croicocephalus ridibundus*), below left.