



LIFE IP GrassBirdHabitats Project site Dümmer



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE EXCURSION

The excursion leads to the Special Protection Area Dümmer, 2 hours by bus, west of Hanover. Dümmer ist one of 27 LIFE IP GrassBirdHabitats project sites in Lower Saxony. At Dümmer, 2,500 ha of fen were purchased and rewetted within several LIFE projects (1996-2030). 80 farmers manage the areas under protective conditions, cooperating with water management and nature conservation. One of Europe's most successful meadow bird sanctuaries has been developed here. The meadow bird populations are increasing very strongly. Twelve formerly disappeared breeding bird species have returned. The breeding populations of target species such as lapwing (840 breeding pairs), curlew (110 breeding pairs), black-tailed godwit (230 breeding pairs) and ruff (10 breeding females) have multiplied.

With the prioritised objective of meadow bird conservation in wet grassland, other goals regarding biodiversity (for example insects), plant species, Natura 2000 habitats and climate are automatically successfully covered and implemented.

During the excursion we will discuss:

- a.) The holistic approach to wet grassland breeding bird protection in the Atlantic Region along the Flyway
- b.) How to implement successful grassland breeding bird conservation in the European context
- c.) How to implement measures for restoration of fens in consideration of of climate change

This includes:

- Measures for rewetting and management of fen peat
- Focus on the water catchment areas
- Necessity to restructure the landscape
- Predator management (removal of ground mammals, reduction of the losses due to birds of prey)
- Wet management of peatland soils to reduce CO₂ emissions
- Engagement and collaboration with farmers
- Policies for implementing the Natura 2000 payments
- Business model for wet grassland farming
- Combining interdisciplinary science with monitoring Natura 2000
- d.) Lake Dümmer, shallow waters and reeds for water birds and reed birds



EXCURSION TIMETABLE

9:00 Departure in Hanover

11:00 Arrival at Dümmer/Ochsenmoor, walk through the meadows and pastures along the trails, discussion

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13:00 Lunch packets with fresh coffee in the field

15:00 Lake Dümmer, shallow waters and reeds for water

birds and reed birds

16:00 Departure back to Hanover

18:00 Arrival at Hanover

Connection with themes

This excursion connects with:

Theme 1: Protection and conservation of meadow birds

Natura 2000 sites visited

Habitats Directive sites: Dümmer 3415-301 (2,800 ha) Birds Directive sites: Dümmer 3415-401 (4,800 ha)

Info

www.wiesenvoegel-life.de www.grassbirdhabitas.eu

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