

Ramsar site "De Biesbosch"

Ad 22.

Count data of bird species in De Biesbosch, which numbers exceed or get near to the i/c criterion (based on Meininger et al., 1984)

species	average yearly number	period of max. numbers	i/c criterion	function of the area
Podiceps cristatus	450	Nov. - Apr.	-	f, r
Phalacrocorax carbo	400 ¹⁾	Aug. - Oct.	300	f, r
Anser fabialis	1,500	Dec. - Feb.	700	s
A. albifrons	9,500	Dec. - Mch.	2,000	s
A. anser	2,000	Oct. - Apr.	400	s
Anas penelope	3,000	Nov. - Apr.	5,000	(f), r
A. crecca	3,000	Nov. - Apr.	2,000	f, r, m
A. platyrhynchos	6,000	Sep. - Apr.	10,000	f, r, m
A. acuta	1,000 ²⁾	Oct. - Apr.	750	f, r
Aythya fenna	2,800	Oct. - Apr.	2,500	f, r
A. fuligula	2,400	Nov. - Apr.	5,000	f, r
Mergus merganser	650 ³⁾	Jan. - Feb.	750	f, s
Fulica atra	3,300	Oct. - Apr.	14,000	r
Philomachus pugnax	200	Mch. / Aug. - Oct.	10,000	(f), s
Limosa limosa	350	Mch.	3,500	(f), s
Numenius arquata	200	Nov. - Mch.	3,000	(f), s
Platalea leucordia	max. 70 ⁴⁾	Aug.	20	f

1) conform Van der Neut (1984)

2) numbers of today are probably lower

3) in soft winters the number is max. some few hundreds

4) conform Gebus (1987)

f = foraging

r = resting

s = sleeping

m = moulting

24. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

There is no field station or something alike in De Biesbosch. Current research projects concern several monitoring project, including ~~the~~ study of recently released Beavers (*Castor fiber*), and a study to the pollution by river sediments and to the possibilities for a (partly) restoration of the former tidal character.

25. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

There are two visitors centres in the area, well equipped with information booklets and facilities for group visits.

26. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

The area has an intensive recreation pressure as De Biesbosch is very popular for water-sports. Many of the larger creeks can be reached by larger boats. Small strips of land have been developed into recreation areas with landing-stages.

27. Management authority: (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

State Forestry Service (Staatsbosbeheer), Region Brabant-West
Postbus 1395
5004 BJ TILBURG

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept of Environment etc.)

Functional: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries
Ministry of Traffic and Public Affairs
Territorial: Province(s) of (Zuid-Holland and) Noord-Brabant
several municipalities

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

30. Reasons for inclusion: (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

- 1 (a)
- 2 (a) (b) (c)
- 3 (a) (b) (c)

31. Map of site (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)

already in your possession

Please return to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

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7NLO06

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: The Netherlands 2. Date: 1-2-'93 3. Ref: office use only NLO06

4. Name and address of compiler:

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature management and Fisheries
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EL The Hague / The Netherlands

5. Name of wetland: Biesbosch (south part)

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 23 May 1980

7. Geographical coordinates: 51° 56' N 4° 48' E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)

In the province of Noord Brabant, approximately 13 km south east of the city Rotterdam

9. Area: (in hectares)

1700

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)

F

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)

average ca. 0 m NAP

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

The Biesbosch is a former tidal fresh water wetland in the Rhine-Meuse delta. After the building of several barrier dams in the Haringvliet and the Hollands Diep only a very slight maritime influence is remaining. The area now develops into a more stagnant system.

13. Physical features: (e.g. geology; geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth; water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

A former tidal estuary, closed off from the sea since 1970. The land is intersected by many former tidal creeks and consists of polders (which are in agricultural use) and nature areas. Only the Sliedrechtse Biesbosch some maritime influence is remaining. ~~However~~ (This part of the Biesbosch ~~also~~ lays outside the Ramsar site.)

The river Nieuwe Merwede, a branch of the Rhine, flows through the Biesbosch and divides it in two parts. Only the part south of the Nieuwe Merwede, the so-called Brabantse Biesbosch, is included in the Ramsar-site.

Some polders have been transformed into water basins (for water-supply)

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

The wetland consists of river and former tidal creeks, marshland and wooded areas. (The polders have been kept outside the Ramsar-site.) and water basins

After the building of the barrier dams most intertidal mudflats disappeared and many ~~the banks of the~~ creek banks started to erode. Reedbeds and oyster beds were left and developed into marshland and willow woodland. Smaller creeks are filled with river sediments.

15. Land tenure / ownership of:

(a) site Partly owned by the state and partly by private persons and boaters.

The Brabantse Biesbosch (Ramsar site) is managed by the State Forestry Service,

The Dordtse Biesbosch is managed by the State Forestry Service and the Society for Preservation of Birds. The Sliebrechtse Biesbosch is owned and managed by the
(b) surrounding area Multiple private ownership 2 Recreation Board "Hollandse Biesbosch"

16. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

The south part of the Biesbosch, the so-called Brabantse Biesbosch, was

designated as Ramsar site on 23 May 1980. Large parts of the Biesbosch

are nature reserves owned and managed by the State Forestry Service.

In the framework of the National Park an integral management plan has been made, including a zonation plan in order to regulate the intensive recreation.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

The total area including the south part (Brabantse Biesbosch), the Dordtse and the Sliebrechtse Biesbosch will be designated as National Park as late as 1993. Furthermore, the total area is short-listed to be designated as SPA under the EC Wild Birds Directive.

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site nature conservation, recreation, boating, shipping

(b) surroundings/catchment agriculture, water basins functioning as drinking-water reserves.

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site

recreation (notably water-sports), see 16.

industrial pollution of the river sections, see 24.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

barrier dams in the Haringvliet and Hollands Diep, minimizing tidal effects

20. Hydrological and physical values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

see 13.

21. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

The area is a very important recreation area with high scenic values. The site is also of archaeological importance as remnants of the villages which were drowned by the St. Elisabeth flood in 1421 must still be present in the wetland. (De Biesbosch was originally part of a rich polder which was drowned by this flood).

22. Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

A table is attached which lists all bird species exceeding the 1% criterion.

Despite ^{all} the changes in character of the wetland the area has become more important as breeding area for marsh birds. For more information about birdlife one is referred to Grimmet and Jones (site 45).

Concerning mammals the introduction of beavers (*Castor fiber*) must be mentioned. The area is also important for *Microtus arvalis*, an endangered species in The Netherlands.

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

After the building of the barrier dunes several rare plant species occurred in the area: *Limosella aquatica*, *Impatiens noli-tangere*, *Stellaria nemorum*, *Pulicaria vulgaris* and *Scrophularia v. umbrosa*.

Although the tidal character has disappeared the area still counts some places with *Caltha palustris araneosa* and *Scirpus triquetus*

For further information on fauna and flora one is referred to the explanatory note