

The year of birds at Untersee, Germany

At Untersee you can discover the diverse world of birds all year long. There is a constant bustle and especially in spring and autumn thousands of migratory birds, which cross over the continent, can be observed. In the following, bird types that favour reeds and lakeshores are mainly considered.

February until May

In February, the Northern Lapwing, the White Wagtail and the Reed Bunting come back.

In March, the following birds can be seen as breeding or migratory birds: the Garganey, the Black Kite, the Marsh Harrier, the Water Rail and the Common Snipe.

In April, the Hobby, the Common Cuckoo, the Nightingale, the Grasshopper Warbler, the Reed Warbler and the Great Reed Warbler return.

April until June

The morning concert of the songbirds can be enjoyed during a bird calls tour. At the lakeshore the Great Crested Grebe but also the Red-crested Pochard and other water birds show their conspicuous courtship behavior.

June until August

From June on, Herons and Ducks bring out their babies from the reed. During an excursion on a solar boat you can have a look at the young water birds.

July until September

In July a noticeable moulting population of Great Crested Grebes, Black-necked Grebes, Mute Swans, Red-crested Pochards and Coots appears. Also in July almost ten thousands of migratory birds arrive and look for a suitable resting place at the lake. Some of them just stay for a few hours, others settle for weeks or months. Swallows and European Starlings stay in the reed in huge groups overnight.

August until November

The flocks of Common Pochards, Tufted Ducks and the remaining water birds always increase. Therefore quiet and undisturbed places as well as enough food are necessary. Only the few protected shallow water zones fulfill these essential needs of the shy migratory birds, coming from the North in the period between August and September. These areas, however, will not suffice for arriving water birds as resting and feeding areas. In autumn it becomes better and resting waders populate the lakeshore of Wollmatinger Ried and the mouth of Radolfzeller Aach at low water level.

November until March

Winter birds dominate the picture. Next to common bird types, the following hibernating population may be discovered in many places: Black-necked Grebe, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Gadwall, Common Teal, Common Goldeneye, Goosander, Common Gull, Yellow-legged Gull, Common Kingfisher and Water Pipit. In mild winter even more species are expected and in some places one can also find the following birds: Great Egret, Whooper Swan, Wigeon, Pintail, Shoveler, Red-crested Pochard, Red-breasted Merganser, Red Kite, Hen Harrier, Peregrine, Curlew, Grey Wagtails, Bearded Tit and Great Grey Shrike.

During winter, favorable observation possibilities are not only restricted to the nature reserves. A lot may also be experienced from public lakeshore paths, as for example around the Island of Reichenau, the area of Radolfzell or at the peninsula HÖri until Stein am Rhein.

Editor:

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