

# Étang du Lindre, forêt du Romersberg et zones voisines //



RAMSAR SITE  
NUMBER  
**1267**



FRANCE

Area :  
**5 300 ha**

Date of designation :  
**February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2003**

Coordinates :  
**48° 47' N 06° 48' E**

## Summary

This vast eco-complex is characterized by a very diversified mosaic of environments including forest, wetlands and reedbeds and open environments (meadows and crops). Because of their geographical position, the ponds of the area, and more particularly the one of Lindre, are sites welcoming migratory avifauna populations. The Romersberg massif is the object of a concertation between naturalists and managers; it hosts an important population of ring-necked flycatcher. Finally, the agricultural areas are more favorable to small passerines such as the red-backed shrike or the meadow sparrow, which are clearly declining.

## International importance

This site is home to many bird species, including several endangered species such as the white-tailed eagle, which breeds, or the grey cranes, which are in migratory stopover. Some breeding species are rare and typical of reedbeds, such as the purple heron and the bittern. On a small part of the site, one can find extremely rare continental halophilic zones.

## General location

This site of the Moselle department, is south-east of Metz, in the heart of the country of ponds. It is at the head of the watershed of the Seille, tributary of the Moselle.



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## Services provided by wetlands

Agriculture, fish farming and forestry allow a balance between the maintenance of these environments and their exploitation. Indeed, this reservoir buffers the agricultural waters upstream and regulates the floods upstream of the Seille valley. The infrastructures of discovery set up, as well as the animations and nature events organized around the pond of Lindre allow the sensitization and the education to the environment of the inhabitants, schoolchildren and tourists. A scientists' house welcomes international scientists and trainees interested in inventory and environmental monitoring actions. Finally, the biennial festival of the Great Fishing, allows to make discover to the public the traditional fishing with the net and the

## Adverse factors

The site is not considered very vulnerable. However, it is necessary to pay attention to the evolution of the landscapes, to the increased human frequentation, to the maintenance of the reedbeds (although important works of development and preservation of reedbeds have been carried out), to the drainage and to the ever increasing use of biocides and agricultural fertilizers having an influence on the watershed. In addition, climate change affects the productivity of water bodies and modifies the balance of forests (proliferation of pests, descent of tops ...) that new economic activities can impact (softwood, wood energy, etc.).



## Four species representative of the site



**OSPREY**  
(*Pandion haliaetus*)

This raptor, easily recognizable by its black eye patch, had not nested in France since the beginning of the 20th century. After visiting the site more and more often during the migration period, it finally nested there again in 2009 with young birds fledging every year.



**GREAT REED WARBLER**  
(*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*)

The pond of Lindre is renowned at the regional, national and European levels for its richness in birds with 240 species that can be observed there. The reedbeds of the site shelter more than 100 pairs Great Reed Warbler, a species in strong regression in France and in the European Union, which represents 20% of the Lorraine population and between 2 and 3% of the national population.

**WATER CROWFOOT**  
(*Ranunculus rionii*)

Water crowfoot is a small aquatic plant protected at the regional level. It is particularly rare in France since it is only present in Moselle and in the Bas-Rhin. It can be observed floating on the water or on the dry areas of some Lorraine water bodies.



**EUROPEAN TREE FROG**  
(*Hyla arborea*)

Magnificent little European tree frog, the green tree frog is particularly well camouflaged and discreet on the foliage... as long as it does not sing! It is then a noisy concert which locates it on the ponds and puddles of all the zone where it finds a bastion for its Lorraine populations.



## Management and conservation

A document of objectives, approved in 2001, is being updated thanks to two evaluations carried out in 2009 and 2010. The Domaine départemental de Lindre ensures the direct management of nearly 1,000 hectares, including more than 800 hectares of water, under extensive fish farming management with the organic farming label and under eco-conditioned agricultural management. The halophilic zone of the site is preserved by a lease between the municipality and the Conservatory of natural areas in Lorraine (CENL). Since 1991, a vast program of studies and management of the state forest of Romersberg has been undertaken by the National Forests Office (ONF) in partnership with the CENL and the Regional Natural Park of Lorraine allowing a more environmental management of the massif.



## Biodiversity

The ecological richness of the territory is explained by the preservation of diversified environments arranged in a mosaic on the site: ponds, reed beds and streams, forests, ponds and edges, meadows, pastures, crops and hedges. The habitat types of community interest listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive cover 93% of the total area of the site, which is quite remarkable. The ecological value of the site is also due to the flora and fauna that can be found there, including a remarkable avifauna both in terms of its abundance and the rarity or fragility of certain species. There are about 120 breeding species and more than 240 observable species.



### The Ramsar Convention

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, commonly known as the Ramsar Convention, is a global inter-governmental treaty that provides the frame-work for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. It is the only global treaty to focus on one single ecosystem.