

The Neeracherried Nature Reserve

Covering an area of 260 acres, the Neeracherried is one of Switzerland's last extensive fens. Surrounded by intensively cultivated agricultural land, these wetlands offer a habitat for innumerable species of fauna and flora.

The Neeracherried is an important breeding ground for rare birds such as the **Northern Lapwing (1)**, Little Bittern and Spotted Crake. Black-headed Gulls nest on islands in the pond, while Reed Warblers, Reed Buntings and Savi's Warblers build their nests hidden in the reeds. Although it regularly breeds in the area, the **Common Kingfisher (2)** is mostly sighted after the breeding season, from August on.

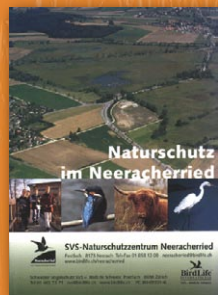
For migratory birds, the Neeracherried is an important resting place where they can build up the necessary fat reserves undisturbed before continuing their migration. In spring, late summer and autumn, waterfowl such as the **Common Teal (3)**, Northern Shoveler, Greenshank, Spotted Redshank and **Great White Egret (4)** rest in the reed beds and in the shallow pond.



The wetlands provide suitable conditions for dragonflies such as the **Scarse Chaser (5)** and the rare Small Emerald Damselfly. It is also home to the rare Smooth Newt and one of the few Swiss populations of the European Bitterling – a fish that lays its eggs in the gills of the duck mussel.

Over 500 different plant species have been recorded in the area. Particularly worth mentioning is the occurrence of the Round-leaved Sundew, Common Sweetflag, **Siberian Iris (6)** and orchids such as the white Marsh Helleborine and Green-winged Orchid. The Yellow Flag Iris, Common Comfrey and Purple Loosestrife are easily seen along the walkway.

However, the Neeracherried is only the remainder of a marshland that extended over the whole plain just 150 years ago. And today, its extraordinary biodiversity is under threat. In some places, there are insufficient buffer zones, while earth deposits and roads remain problems for which solutions still need to be found.



You will find more information about the wetlands in the 64-page brochure **Naturschutz im Neeracherried**.



Further information about the history of the Neeracherried and interviews with twenty people from the local area are to be found in the 64-page brochure **Erinnerungen ans Ried**. These two publications are currently available only in German.

Experience nature close up at the Nature Reserve

The Neeracherried Nature Reserve Centre, which is operated by SVS/BirdLife Switzerland, is specially designed to allow visitors to explore the wetlands as a habitat from every angle. We offer the following activities:

Two hides in the marsh



The main attraction at the Centre is the walkway leading through the marsh to the two hides. The walkway and hides are accessible only during opening hours and are usually attended by one of our staff on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Biodiversity nature trail and pond

Fascinating sightings can be made in and around the pond. The diverse microhabitats are home to a wealth of small animals.

Nature trail and viewing platform

The platform overlooking the marsh and the nature trail are accessible at any time.

Permanent exhibition: The Wetland Habitat

Our permanent exhibition gives visitors the chance to learn about the marshland at various exciting, interactive stations. Here, you can find detailed information about most of the animals and plants living in the wetlands and about the history of the landscape. There are observation tips for a visit to the walkway, a cave for children to explore and much more.

Special exhibition

See our annual programme (available only in German).

Video presentation (in German):

Fascinating shots of a year in the Neeracherried. Duration: 12 minutes



Opening times

End of March to end of October

Wednesdays: 2.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

Saturdays: 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Sundays and public holidays: 8.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

Guided group tours available every day except Mondays

Beginning of November to end of March

2nd Sunday in every month: 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Admission charges

Exhibitions: free. Walkway and hides: CHF 5.00: adults
CHF 3.00: reduced rate (children, students, senior citizens)
CHF 10.00: family rate

Guided group tours

Groups of any kind are very welcome at the Nature Reserve Centre any day except Monday. The topic and duration of the tour are arranged individually. Resource packs (in German) are available for school classes of any age.

Examples of guided tour charges: CHF 160.00 for clubs and societies (2 hours), CHF 190.00 for companies (2 hours)

Contact: Phone: 044 858 13 00, Fax : 044 858 15 20,
E-Mail: neeracherried@birdlife.ch

For detailed information and latest sightings, visit

www.birdlife.ch/neeracherried

The Swiss Association for the Protection of Birds SVS/Birdlife Switzerland

The Swiss Association for the Protection of Birds SVS/BirdLife Switzerland was responsible for setting up the Neeracherried Nature Reserve Centre and now runs it on behalf of the the nature conservation office of the canton of Zurich.

SVS/BirdLife Switzerland, an umbrella organisation comprising 500 local sections, 18 cantonal associations and 2 national organisations, has 60,000 members. This versatile conservation association implements concrete conservation projects in Switzerland and supports international biodiversity initiatives. SVS/BirdLife Switzerland operates a second nature reserve at La Sauge on Lake Neuchâtel, near Berne. We welcome new members!



Birdlife Switzerland's conservation projects in the Neeracherried
SVS/BirdLife Switzerland has realised some pioneering nature conservation projects in the Neeracherried in cooperation with Ala (the Swiss society of ornithology and bird protection), the nature conservation office of the canton of Zurich, the municipality of Neerach and other partners.

Since Scottish Highland Cattle were brought in to graze in the Neeracherried, various birds, including the Northern Lapwing and the Snipe, have started to nest in the wetlands again. Renaturalised in 2000/2001, the grasslands known as the Dorfswien have now become home to various species, including 20 different kinds of dragonfly and damselfly. And with the help of an artificial nesting site, the Common Kingfisher should also be able to breed in the area again.



Welcome to the Neeracherried Nature Reserve Centre



How to get here

By public transport from Zurich Main Station:

Take the S5 train to Oberglatt departing at 7 minutes past the hour and arriving in Oberglatt at 23 minutes past the hour. Then take the 510 bus (signed Stadel) departing at 26 minutes past the hour and arriving at Riedt bei Neerach at 36 minutes past the hour. The Nature Conservation Centre is just 5 minutes on foot from the Riedt bei Neerach bus-stop.

By public transport from Winterthur or Bülach:

Take the S41 train from Winterthur departing at 36 minutes past the hour and arriving in Bülach at 55 minutes past the hour. Then take the 515 bus (signed Stadel) departing at 4 minutes past the hour and arriving at Neerach Post at 15 minutes past the hour. Then take the 510 bus (signed Flughafen) departing at 16 minutes past the hour and arriving at Riedt bei Neerach at 20 minutes past the hour.

By car:

From Zurich: via Rümlang, Oberglatt, Niederglatt
From Winterthur: via Bülach and Höri

The surroundings

