



Weidmoos *A Bird-Paradise*

Habitat Management in the Weidmoos Bird Reserve



www.weidmoos.at

Bird Habitat of significance across Europe

The Weidmoos (140 ha) is a bird habitat of great significance to Europe. Over 150 bird species have been identified to date, including some that are threatened with extinction in Europe. For instance, the white-spotted bluethroat is commonly found in the Weidmoos. Shorebirds and waterfowl, such as snipes or spotted crakes, raise their young here. The Weidmoos is an important resting place for the wood sandpiper, the ruff, and other migratory birds.

This is why, in April 2006, the Weidmoos was declared a European wildlife reserve. This makes it a part of the European-wide Natura 2000 network of reserves.

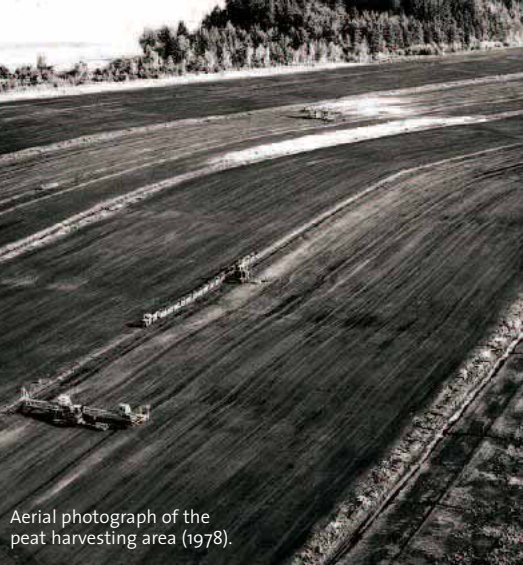


Bittern





Habitat with a Future



The Weidmoos in the north of the Flachgau region near Salzburg, was originally an expansive raised bog. For decades, peat was industrially harvested here. After peat harvesting was stopped in the year 2000, nature began to retake the area at an unbelievable pace. A mosaic of water, reed beds, and clumps of willows provide an ideal habitat for many rare species of birds.

After the severe encroachment from peat harvesting, however, the Weidmoos could not be left to itself. The drained area, sooner or later, would have turned into a monotonous forest landscape. The LIFE project “Habitat Management in the Weidmoos Bird Reserve” was carried out between 2003 and 2007 for this reason. The goal of this project, with a 1.21 million EURO endowment, was to preserve the Weidmoos with targeted measures to retain its natural state, while simultaneously making it accessible to people.

Aerial photograph of the
peat harvesting area (1978).



A LIFE project for nature ...

The following measures were implemented in the course of the LIFE project:

- 46 hectares of land were purchased or leased.
- 50 clay dikes, with a total length of 2,5 km, were erected to retain rainwater in the Weidmoos again.
- This created more than 30 ha of new water and wetland area.
- The mowing of 30 ha of straw meadows has been optimized for bird life, and secured for the long term.

Through these measures, the Weidmoos has been secured as an important retreat for rare bird species.



The Weidmoos, flooded again, from a bird's-eye view.





... and for people!

Over **150 species** of birds have been observed in the Weidmoos to date.

A botanical census counted over **300 species of plants**.

The Weidmoos is home to **8 species of amphibians** and **5 species of reptiles**.



White-spotted Bluethroat

As part of the LIFE project, the southern part of the Weidmoos was made available for visitors without disturbing the bird life. The Weidmoos thus became a site where nature can be experienced:

- A **nature walk** invites you to get to know the unique bird life and the variety of moor habitats.
- A 12m-high nature **viewing tower** provides impressive views of the Weidmoos and birdwatching opportunities.
- In the **Information Center**, with its **exhibits** and **film presentations**, you can learn all about the Weidmoos and the LIFE project. (For hours and further information, visit www.weidmoos.at).
- You can experience the Weidmoos up close with an expert on a **guided tour** (contact person: Mayor Johann Griessner, see reverse for details).





Natura 2000 – Europe's nature for you.

The Weidmoos is part of the European Natura 2000 Network. It has been designated because it hosts some of Europe's rarest bird species. All 27 countries of the EU are working together through the Natura 2000 network to safeguard Europe's natural heritage for the benefit of all.



LIFE is a promotional program of the EU to support nature conservancy projects in Natura 2000 areas.



Project-Partner

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Vogelparadies Weidmoos



Torferneuerungsverein
Weidmoos



Gemeinde
Lamprechtshausen



Gemeinde
St. Georgen

www.weidmoos.at

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Naturschutzabteilung Salzburg - diverse Veröffentlichungen](#)

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