



Each pair of cranes have one to two chicks which hatch in April/May and remain with their parents until the spring of the following year.

Cranes in the Großes Moor bei Uchte

The large open surface areas created by industrial peat-cutting with their already rewetted areas scattered throughout, offer thousands of cranes quiet and safe places to rest and sleep in the Großes Moor (great moor) near Uchte. In autumn 2013 and 2014, more than 15,000 cranes stopped and rested here. This is the largest number recorded in this area so far. Further areas where the peat has been cut away will be continuously rewetted. In this way the perfect resting and gathering place for cranes will be created. And it is for this reason that a further increase in the numbers of birds stopping and resting here in the Uchter Moor can be expected. The large areas of agricultural land surrounding the Großes Moor also offer the cranes good feeding areas. However, the construction of a wind park to the north of the moor in 2006 meant that the cranes lost areas where they could find food.

Since 2009 cranes have also been brooding in the Uchter Moor. Hidden in the undisturbed, wet moor areas, they start to build their nests in March. The brooding period of the two eggs is around 30 days. Just a few short days after hatching, the entire family leaves the nest together for feeding trips in the moor.

The best place to observe the cranes is to the north of the viewing tower. From the road K 39, you are guided directly to the car park. In order to find the location you can use the following address:
Darlaten 55, 31600 Uchte.



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Großes Moor bei Uchte

A raised bog with potential



Profile

» **Size:** 5,660 hectares with a 30 cm layer of peat (raised bog size); approximately 9 kilometres in width and approximately 8 kilometres in length.

» **Cutting peat:** farmers cut peat by hand in areas bordering the Uchter Moor and there was also large industrial-scale peat-cutting in the centre; peat cut down to a depth of up to 3 metres

» **Renaturation:** continuous rewetting of the areas where the peat has been completely cut away and areas that have been levelled; first renaturated areas were already created 20 years ago

» **Conservation status:** 3,263 hectares are designated as a nature reserve and as a EU bird conservation area.

A raised bog with potential

The Großes Moor near Uchte is the largest moor by far in the area of Diepholzer Moorniederung when looked at from a geological perspective. In the northern part of the moor, several mineral island protrude from the ground which the moor could not grow over.

Large areas of the north have been agriculturally cultivated for decades. In the centre, however, the appearance of the raised moor is predominantly influenced by peat-cutting. The industrial-scale cutting of peat will continue in the Uchter Moor for several decades to come. In those areas where the approved depth has already been reached, no more peat is cut. With the help of a hydrological plan and using the very latest technologies available, the rewetting process is implemented: diggers and other tracked machinery level the ground and close the drainage ditches.

The peat dams erected with the help of laser technology keep the rain that falls in the moor – this is the perfect start for renaturation.

The areas of the Uchter Moor that were rewetted only a few years ago are already showing initial successes: bird species that have become rare are returning here to rest and brood. The further development will make the massive potential that the Uchter moor has for re-establishing plant and animal populations on the raised moor more clear. Visitors are invited to experience this development from the viewing towers, the sign-posted paths and from the Moor train.

Left: The cutting of peat has shaped the appearance of large areas of the Uchter moor. **Right:** Raised moor plants continue to spread. The thin-leaved cotton grass with its copper-red autumn colour is particularly conspicuous.

