

The three large resting areas used by cranes in Germany: Rügen-Bock region, Rhin-Havelluch and Diepholzer Moorniederung. They also fly to further smaller resting areas as well.



Finding cranes – A natural spectacle in the Diepholzer Moorniederung

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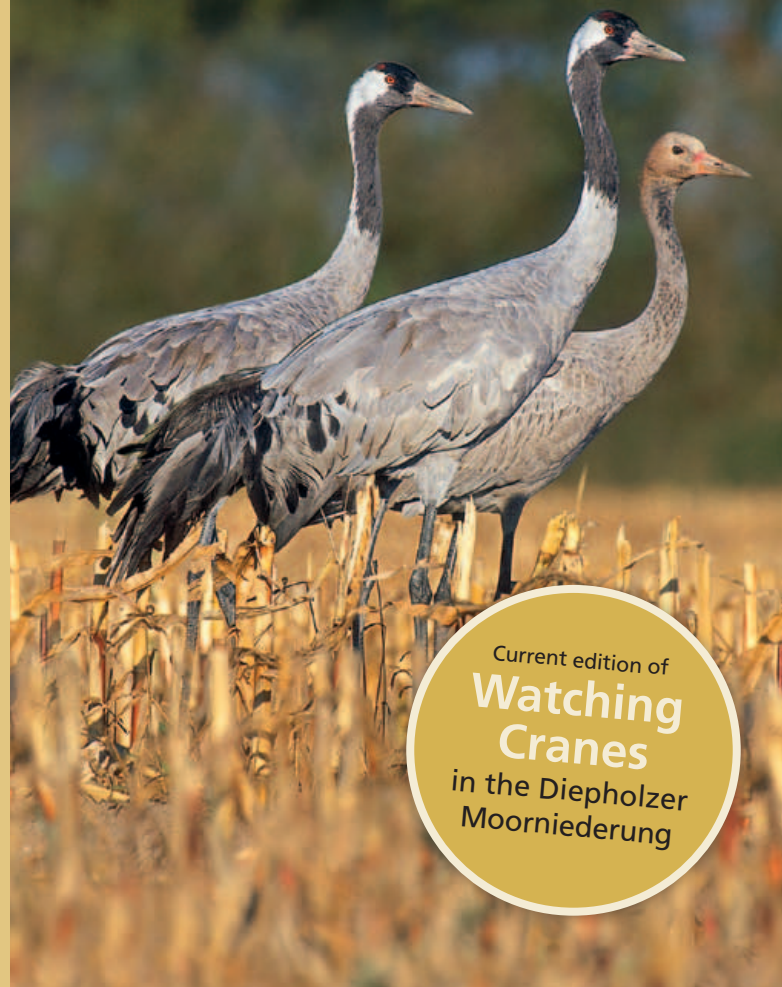
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# Finding cranes

## A natural spectacle in the Diepholzer Moorniederung



Current edition of  
**Watching Cranes**  
 in the Diepholzer Moorniederung

## Moor conservation is crane conservation

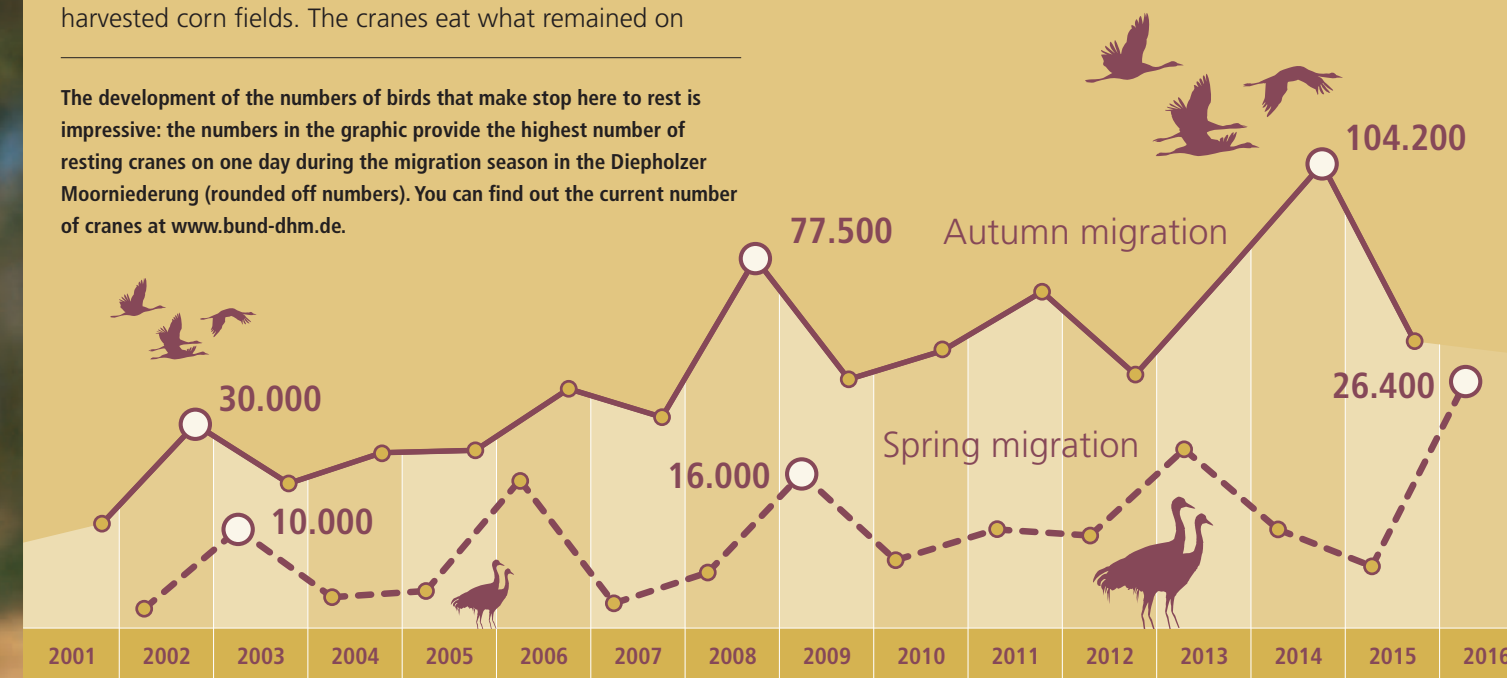
Since the 1970s, rewetting, conservation and development measures have been constantly carried out in the Diepholzer Moorniederung. And the cranes have also benefitted. During both the autumn and spring migration seasons, thousands of these very impressive birds land on the wide and open moorland.

On the rewetted raised moor, the cranes have places where they can rest and sleep without being disturbed because they can hide from enemies in the flat rewetted areas during the night. During the day the birds look for food on the surrounding agricultural land, particularly on the many harvested corn fields. The cranes eat what remained on

the fields after the harvest, but insects are also a source of food that is rich in energy – perfect for when they continue on their migratory flight. The combination of a safe resting and sleeping place and the places to find food close by, the Diepholzer Moorniederung offers the cranes perfect conditions during the migration season.

But it is not just during the migration season that the cranes spend time in the Diepholzer Moorniederung. Since 1999, the "birds of happiness" have brooded in the well renaturated moor area and successfully raised their chicks.

The development of the numbers of birds that make stop here to rest is impressive: the numbers in the graphic provide the highest number of resting cranes on one day during the migration season in the Diepholzer Moorniederung (rounded off numbers). You can find out the current number of cranes at [www.bund-dhm.de](http://www.bund-dhm.de).



Their calls can be heard far away – Cranes flying into their resting and sleeping area.

The search is over – The Diepholzer Moorniederung gives you multiple opportunities to experience the "fascination of cranes". On the map of the conservation axis, you can see where the observation points are located. Each moor has its own particularities which are introduced in detail in a leaflet. We wish you lots of fun, enjoyment and wonderful experiences watching the cranes!

## Content

For one moment – The big 1 x 1 of crane watching

1 Neustädter Moor – The pearl among the moors

2 Mittleres Wietingsmoor – Historically something special

3 Großes Moor bei Barnstorf – Life after the peat has gone

4 Oppenweher Moor – A raised bog as border

5 Rehdeener Geestmoor – Over 25 years of protecting the moor

6 Großes Moor bei Uchte – A raised bog with potential





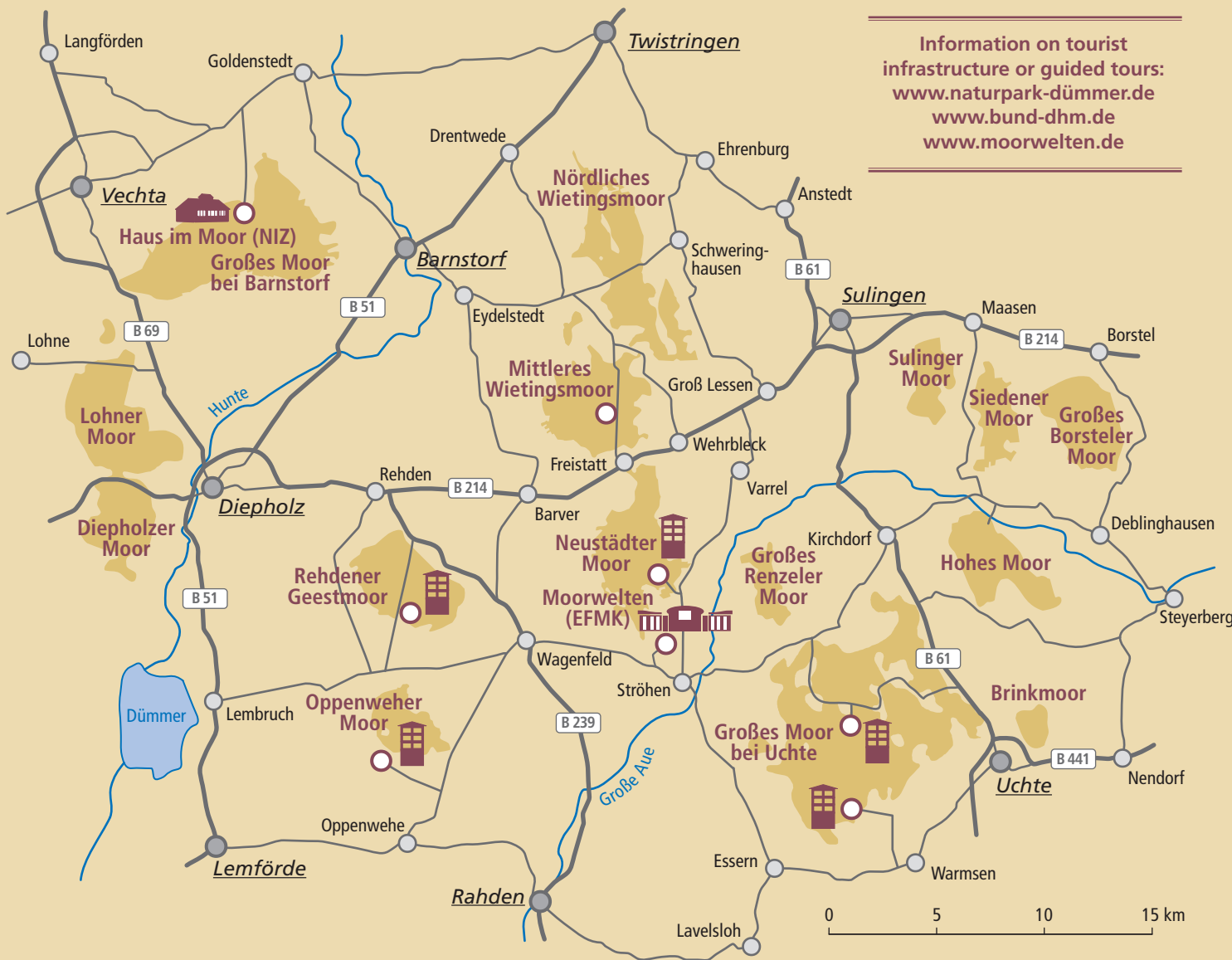
The Diepholzer Moorniederung has raised bogs, is 1,180 square kilometres in size and is located in the triangle between Bremen-Hannover-Osnabrück.

Just like islands, the 15 raised bogs have an overall surface area of 240 square kilometres in a predominantly agricultural region. They are valuable habitats for many rare and endangered animals and plants. The majority of moors are designated as nature reserves and declared as European conservation areas (NATURA 2000 areas) as a result. In addition to this, some of them are also swamp areas of international importance (Ramsar Convention).

The Diepholzer Moorniederung has developed into an important resting place for cranes in Europe over the past number of years.

## The small 1x1 of observing cranes

The best time to watch cranes in the Diepholzer Moorniederung is from the start of October until the middle of November.



Information on tourist infrastructure or guided tours:  
[www.naturpark-dümmer.de](http://www.naturpark-dümmer.de)  
[www.bund-dhm.de](http://www.bund-dhm.de)  
[www.moorwelten.de](http://www.moorwelten.de)

» Use the observation infrastructure available in the region. Strong binoculars make sense.

» In order to see the cranes flying in to land at their resting and sleeping areas, you should be there roughly 1.5 hours before sunset.

» When searching for food on agricultural land, the cranes can be best viewed from the car or the mobile viewing stand.

» The distance at which a crane feels like taking flight is far. When all cranes raise their head at the same time, this is when they feel very disturbed. A further disturbance will make them fly away.

