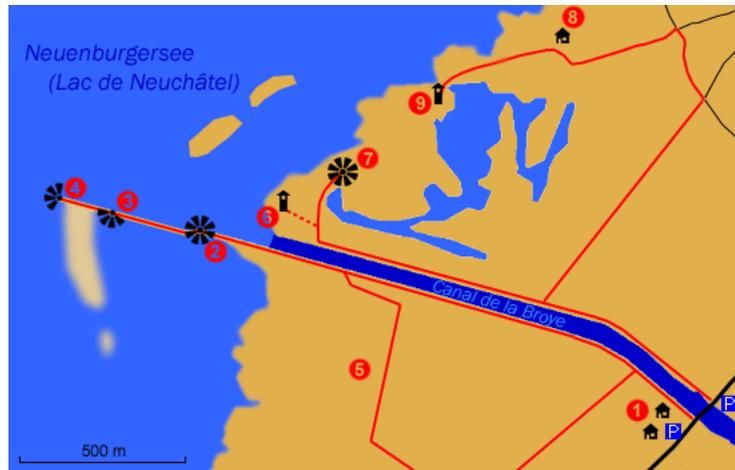




# Fanel Ramsar Site

In the 1870s, the water levels of lakes Bienne, Neuchâtel and Morat were lowered by 2.7m and the three lakes connected by canals. The plain between the lakes was drained and turned into the largest vegetable-growing area of Switzerland. Along the southern shore of lake Neuchâtel, the lowering of the water level created an almost continuous belt of fenland reaching from Yverdon-les-Bains (SW) to the Thielle canal (NE), bordered in part by the sandstone cliffs that formed the original boundary of the lake.



The Fanel Bay and Chabalais de Cudrefin were designated as a Ramsar Site in 1976 when Switzerland joined the Ramsar Convention, the adjacent sections (Rive sud du lac de Neuchâtel) were added to the List in 1990 (during COP4 at Montreux). Only areas with natural wetland habitats were included in the Ramsar Site, thus the site is subdivided into different sections (i.e. Nature Reserves). The area is called "**Grande Cariçaie**" after the tall sedges (*Carex*) dominating the vegetation. Reedbeds, broken up by ponds, are succeeded landwards by sedges, wet meadows and alluvial forests. These diverse habitats are home to many plant and animal populations threatened in Switzerland.

Since 1991, three sections of the shore have become waterbird reserves under federal legislation. Hunting is prohibited and public access restricted. Despite the efforts to protect the wetlands, problems remain. Erosion of the lakeshore results in an annual loss of 1-2ha marshland. In 1972, the lake water level was lowered even further, preventing regular flooding of large areas and thus promoting the advancing of forest vegetation. Pressure from the public poses many problems. Tourist infrastructure and the attractiveness of the lake for leisure and recreation purposes are taking their toll of the land and lead to disturbance of wildlife.

In 2001, BirdLife Switzerland opened its visitors' centre **La Sauge** (Nr 1 on the map), by creating new wetlands and an education trail on former farmland, next to the historic toll house at the Broie canal crossing, marking the border between the cantons of Vaud, Fribourg, Neuchâtel and Berne (and the French and German-speaking parts of Switzerland). The education centre is complemented by an organic farm (using Scottish Highland cattle for vegetation management), a hotel, and a restaurant in the historic building.



**Mean bird counts for the months of October 1992/93–2002/03 (\*1996/97–2002/03) at the au Fanel/Chablais de Cudrefi n/Pointe de Marin RAMSAR site for the seven «responsibility species» and species for which the reserve is of national importance**

**Recensements d'oiseaux moyens pour les mois d'octobre 1992/93–2002/03 (\*1996/97–2002/03) au Fanel/Chablais de Cudrefi n/Pointe de Marin pour les sept espèces « à responsabilité » et pour les espèces pour lesquelles la réserve revêt une importance nationale.**

Crested grebe	Grèbe huppé	405
Cormorant	Grand Cormoran	318 *
Great white egret	Grande Aigrette	12 *
Grey heron	Héron cendré	16
Mute swan	Cygne tuberculé	301
Whooper swan	Cygne chanteur	0 – arrive in November
Bean goose	Oie des moissons	0 – arrive in November
White-fronted goose	Oie rieuse	0 – arrive in December
Greylag goose	Oie cendrée	19
Shelduck	Tadorne de Belon	0 – arrive in December
Wigeon	Canard siffleur	40
Gadwall	Canard chipeau	152
Krickente	Sarcelle d'hiver	81
Pintail	Canard pilet	44
Red-crested pochard	Nette rousse	16
Pochard	Fuligule milouin	6731
Tufted duck	Fuligule morillon	2072
Scaup	Fuligule milouinan	0 – arrive in November
Eider	Eider à duvet	6
Velvet scoter	Macreuse brune	0 – arrive in December
Goldeneye	Garrot à oeil d'or	0 – arrive in November
Smew	Harle piette	0 – arrive in December
Red-breasted merganser	Harle huppé	0 – arrive in November
Goosander	Harle bièvre	65
Coot	Foulque macroule	4595
Curlew	Courlis cendré	4 *
Mediterranean silver gull	Goéland leucophée	174

**Other birds that may be observed during the autumn migration period:**

**Autres espèces qui peuvent être observées pendant la période de migration automnale:**

Bittern	Grand butor	Golden plover	Pluvier doré
Little bittern	Blongios nain	Grey plover	Pluvier argenté
Purple heron	Héron pourpré	Lapwing	Vanneau huppé
Cattle egret	Héron garde-boeuf	Bar-tailed godwit	Barge rousse
Squacco heron	Héron crabbier	Black-tailed godwit	Barge à queue noire
Little egret	Aigrette garzette	Whimbrel	Courlis corlieu
Night heron	Bihoreau gris	Snipe	Bécassine des marais
Osprey	Balbutard	Turnstone	Tourneperrière à collier
Common buzzard	Buse variable	Dunlin	Bécasseau variable
Honey buzzard	Bondrée apivore	Curlew sandpiper	Bécasseau cocorli
Black kite	Milan noir	Little stint	Bécasseau minute
Red kite	Milan royal	Temminck's stint	Bécasseau de Temminck
Marsh harrier	Busard des roseaux	Various sandpipers	Chevalier divers
Hen harrier	Busard Saint-Martin	Common gull	Goéland cendré
Peregrine	Faucon pèlerin	Lesser black-backed gull	Goéland brun
Hobby	Faucon hobereau	Mediterranean gull	Mouette mélanocéphale
Several crane species	Marouettes diverses	Black-headed gull	Mouette rieuse
Oystercatcher	Huîtrier-pie	Whiskered tern	Guifette moustac
Black-winged stilt	Echasse blanche	White winged tern	Guifette leucoptère
Avocet	Avocette	Black tern	Guifette noire
Kentish plover	Gravelot à collier interrompu	Common tern	Sterne pierregarin
Little ringed plover	Petit gravelot	Etc.	
Ringed plover	Grand gravelot		

