

## Reserve "Nietlickie Swamp"



It was established by the Regulation No. 32 of the Governor of Warmińsko – Mazurski Province of the 6th of May 2003 (Dz. Urz. Woj. Warm.-Maz. Nr 72, poz. 1069). The protection aims at preservation of natural and landscape advantages of Nietlickie Swamp with its dominant reed vegetation and the adjoining forest areas and places with no trees with numerous swamps as well as rare and protected plant and animal species. The reserve encompasses in total 1132.91 ha of land; 1048.70 ha of this area are under administration of Giżycko Forestry Office. The reserve is situated within the limits of Orzysz forest area in Dąbrówka forest district. With regard to the main protection objective, the reserve has an ornithological nature. As it comes to the type of pervading ecosystems, the area has the nature of a moor reserve. The major species dominant in the forests is downy birch; then, to a lesser extent, common alder and, to a very little degree, common spruce, common pine and trembling poplar. Apart from the main species there are also additional species such as common oak or laurel willow.



On the reserve territory 408 species of vascular plants, 6 lichen species and 932 moss species have been recorded. The flora research conducted so far has shown the presence of many rare plant species and interesting plant communities. Here there can be found: shrub birch, large pink, globe-flower, dark-leaved willow, Early-Marsh orchid, European white water lily, yellow water-lily and many other species. As it comes to animals, the avifauna has been recognized best. On the reserve territory and in the vicinity of its borders 27 mammal species, 94 bird species breeding regularly and irregularly, 14 amphibian and reptile species and 44 diurnal butterfly species have been recorded. For birds the area of Nietlickie Swamp is an exceptional territory. It is nesting place of such birds as: corncrake, aquatic warbler, gad-fly, marsh harrier, black grouse, spotted crane, Eurasian crane, black tern, great reed warbler, lesser spotted eagle, European nightjar, common goldeneye and sea eagle, for whom the swamp area is a part of its hunting ground. Especially valuable species for the reserve is Eurasian crane and it concerns both the birds that stop here to rest during their autumn and summer migrations and young birds that spend summer on this territory. The largest flock of cranes that was observed on the sleeping spot counted as many as 5 thousand birds.



Of mammals living in this area such species as otter, European beaver and elk are worth special attention. The reserve's protection aims at preservation of breeding populations of crane, wood grouse and other ornithofauna species as well as preservation of habitat optimal for those birds.



Nietlickie Swamp is the largest and at the same time the only one so well preserved low moor in Masuria Lake District. No other large Masuria's swamp and sippy area survived in such natural condition until present time. Both the vast area and its natural condition decide about the site's unique richness of fauna and flora.