

Birds at the Botanical Garden of the University of Vienna.

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The Botanical Garden is located in the 3rd district of Vienna in the highly urbanised centre of the city. This 8 hectare green space is a well structured garden and provides resources for many animal species. The present diploma thesis investigates birds and their habitat use in an urban area. In April and May 2016 a monitoring was performed in the Botanical Garden over 2 periods of 10 days each. Twenty eight bird species were found and their frequency was determined. Sixteen species were found regularly, and two further species seem to be associated to the Botanical Garden for nutrition reasons. Indications for reproduction were found in 13 species; breeding success could be proven for 9 species. Five to six territories of the Eurasian blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) could be established. It's not surprising that the most abundant breeding species were for example the Great tit (*Parus major*), the Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) and the Carrion crow (*Corvus corone*), which are typical for green spaces in the city of Vienna. The remaining 10 species, which were found in the Botanical Garden only for a few days each, seem to be guests or migratory birds. Common migratory birds were for example the European pied flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) or the Ictinerine warbler (*Hippolais icterina*). Additional observations showed that some further species could be found only on single days, indicating the importance of the Botanical Garden as an urban resting place for migratory birds. The comparison to a survey in 2004 by H.W. Krenn shows, that the stock of birds in the Botanical Garden changed during the last 12 years. For example the Syrian woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*) and the European serin (*Serinus serinus*) were not found anymore, and the Common wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*), which seemed to be only a guest in 2004 was now breeding successfully.