

# SUMMARY

## From a big flock of birds /GELGAUDIŠKIS

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The composition of Gelgaudiškis region bird fauna is determined mostly by the lack of natural water reservoirs, old intensive agricultural traditions, a close neighbourhood of the Nemunas River and a large forest of Kazlų Rūda. About 130 bird species hatch there, 19 of them are included into the Red Book of Lithuania. One species, the corn crake (landrail), belongs to a globally becoming extinct category. The biggest centres of bird abundancy and variety (especially of rare water- and swamp-loving species) in the country are as follows: the ornithological preserve of Novaraistis, the clay quarries of Gelgaudiškis and the Nemunas riversides, including old river-beds. The Novaraistis ornithological preserve distinguishes itself by the most abundant accumulations of grey crane: about 300 specimens spending summers and up to 2,000 migrating ones. This place is in conformity with the international bird protection organization BirdLife International requirements applied to single out the territories important for birds in Europe, it is also in conformity with the criteria for protectable territories of international importance established by the Convention of Ramsar.