

Country: Czechoslovakia

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Name and address of compiler: Jiří Vondráček  
Regional Dept. of Nat. Cons.  
Ústí nad Labem

RS3 Novozámecký a Břežyňský rybník (Novozámecký and Břežyňský fishponds)

Date of Ramsar designation: 03.07.1990

Geographical location: 50° 37' N 14° 34' E (Novozámecký fishpond)  
50° 30' N 14° 39' E (Břežyňský fishpond)

District: Česká Lípa

Area: 923 ha; Novozámecký fishpond 474.17 ha  
Břežyňský fishpond 130 ha (open water 40 ha)

Wetland type: man-made wetlands - fishponds

Altitude: 250 - 272 m a.s.l

**Brief description:**

Novozámecký fishpond is covered with dense vegetation, most of the water body is covered with stands of the yellow water lily (*Nuphar luteum*). Extensive reed belt forms a transition between the open water and surrounding peat- and sedge meadows. Břežyňský fishpond is a woodland fishpond on a peaty soil, neighbouring with a peat bog and secondary stands of waterlogged pine and spruce forest.

**Geographical and geological characteristics:**

Both fishponds are situated in the Bohemian Chalk Plateau in the parts 'Ralská pahorkatina' and 'Českolipská kotlina'. The subbasement is formed by Turonian thick-bedded sandstone. The fishponds were founded in the place of peaty wetlands in 14th century. The climate is moderate, the average annual air temperature is 7° C, the average annual rainfall is 650 mm.

**Ecological characteristics:**

The vegetation has been left to spontaneous development at both sites for several decades. The fish management is of medium intensity, which has enabled the development of rich littoral vegetation. The most abundant type are reed stands, which have extended to most of the fishpond area. The open water is covered by aquatic macrophytes (yellow water lily). The transition between the fishponds and dry land is formed by hydrosere of ecotones with sedge meadows and peat bogs, which are successively covered by spontaneously established trees. The shoreline of Břežyňský fishpond is also fringed by waterlogged pine and spruce forest.

**Property rights:**

Most of the area is state property, part is privately owned. Privatization of most of the area is envisaged.

#### Conservation:

The site is a part of the nature reserves 'Novozámecký rybník' (Novozámecký fishpond; 350 ha, declared in 1933) and Břehyně-Pecopala (903.5 ha, declared in 1933).

#### Conservation activities prepared:

A proposal has been elaborated to include a buffer zone in the nature reserve of Novozámecký fishpond (the area of the reserve would thus increase to 474 ha).

#### Main human activities:

- a) on the sites: extensive fish production
- b) in the surroundings: mainly forestry, following management plans prepared in co-operation with the State Nature Conservation.

#### Main negative impacts:

Attempts to intensify the fishpond management, proceeding eutrophication of the fishponds through run-off from surrounding land, illegal recreation, and manipulations of water level which do not respect the agreements with nature Conservation.

#### Hydrological value:

Accumulation of water from the surroundings.

#### Social and cultural value:

Fish production is of negligible importance: both fishponds yielded about 12 metric tonnes of fish, mainly carp, in 1989. Novozámecký fishpond is a Cultural Heritage site of the 1st category (No. 3407/1-3) since 1964. A special exposition focussed on ecology has been installed in the area of the nature reserve by the Regional Museum.

#### Fauna:

Both fishponds represent areas of the highest ornithological value in Northern Bohemia, both as breeding sites (*B. stellaris*, *A. anser*, *C. pygargus*, *L. luscinioides*, *P. biarmicus*, *G. grus*, *H. albicilla*) and as stops on migration for dozens of bird species (the records include over 200 species). Occurrence of *Lutra lutra*, and of the amphibians *Pelobates fuscus* and *Bufo calamita*. As for invertebrates, the site is the only site hosting *Phyllonorycter anderidae* in Czechoslovakia.

#### Flora:

Both sites host aquatic and wetland plant communities, including: communities of open water, reed stands, tall sedges, transitional peat bogs and various forest communities. Protected plant species include: in Novozámecký fishpond: *Iris pseudacorus*, *Calla palustris*, *Najas marina*, *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*, *Naumburgia thyrsoflora*, and *Nuphar luteum*; in Břehyňský fishpond: *Dryopteris cristata*, *Najas marina*, *N. minor*, *Rhynchospora alba*, *Calla palustris*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Ledum palustre*, *Naumburgia thyrsoflora*, *Nymphaea candida*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Nuphar luteum*.

#### Research activities:

A systematic ornithological monitoring has been carried out at both sites since 1955. A field station is situated in the

Břehyňský fishpond nature reserve. A study into population dynamics of *Orchideaceae* is being carried out in Novozámecký fishpond area.

**Education:**

A specialized unit of the Regional Museum of Česká Lípa is situated in the area of Novozámecký fishpond; a proposal for the establishment of a nature trail has been prepared.

**Recreation:**

The north-western bank of Břehyňský fishpond is used for recreation to a small extent; as recreation is prohibited in the whole area, the situation is being reconsidered in co-operation with the District Council of Česká Lípa.

**Management:**

Czech Nature Conservation, centre in Ústí nad Labem - through the land users.

**Jurisdiction:**

State (Ministry of the Environment)  
Regional (District Council in Česká Lípa)

**Bibliography:**

**Reasons for Ramsar designation:**

According to criterion 2a: wetlands hosting rare and endangered species of plants and animals.