

WC 03059 (bisher NC 01068)

Bird-compatible wind turbines

Conversation with Mr. Helmut Schierl 020722
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Helmut Schierl from Rietberg, district of Gütersloh, body maker in the automobile industry, is an enthusiastic hobby **falconer**. He has observed the behaviour of birds in the surroundings of wind turbines for years. He is delighted to share his experience with a larger public here.

Being the enthusiastic environmentalist he is, he has already mounted about 10 bird boxes for falcons on wind turbines and reports that these have always been accepted by the birds without problems.

“The box is made of stainless steel and is almost 1 m wide. On the inside there is just one board with a hollow for the eggs. Cleaning must only be carried out within longer periods of time, once every several years, as the falcons do without nesting material.

The metal boxes are shaped like and adapted to the round tower shape and do not damage it. For mounting, the rope is wrapped around the lower part of the tower, then the box is lifted with the elevating platform. In the process the rope is lifted too and once in position it is tensioned by simply arresting it with two rope clamps.

The box is mounted in a north/east position, so that the sun doesn't shine into it.“

Helmut Schierl has kept close to the turbines since 1988. At first he was a strict opponent of the wind generators, as he considered them a hazard to the bird population. Frequently he visited wind turbines on the coast and observed them carefully.

Helmut Schierl summarises his observations which range over a period of several years as follows:

“The birds do not fly away from the turbines but continue to brood where they always have. Harriers, for example, which belong to the endangered bird species, as do larks. The birds are not disturbed in their normal behaviour. And migratory birds are so sensitive to noise that they do not fly into the blades.

Fehmarn for example has many wind turbines. I even made the experience that particularly in those places where there are wind turbines there are more birds to be found than in the open landscape, where there are no turbines. They even seem to represent some kind of protection to the birds. Lapwings for example are highly sensitive too. Even they walk around the wind turbines and don't shy away from them.“



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A stork flies around the wind turbine no. 6 without being afraid of anything!
 Environmentalists predicted their moving away the year after the erection of the WT.
 But the storks came back again and they are elevating 3 young!
 (seen in the 20 MW wind park Tüchen-Reckenthin 030727)



Mr. Hoge, Mayor of Tüchen-Reckenthin / Brandenburg has a large storks' nest on his farmyard. For over 50 years, a stork couple has arrived regularly in the middle of April. Usually, the male arrives first, it then prepares the nest, the female arrives about ten days later.

An environmentalist prognosticated that after the erection of 11 wind turbines the storks would disappear.

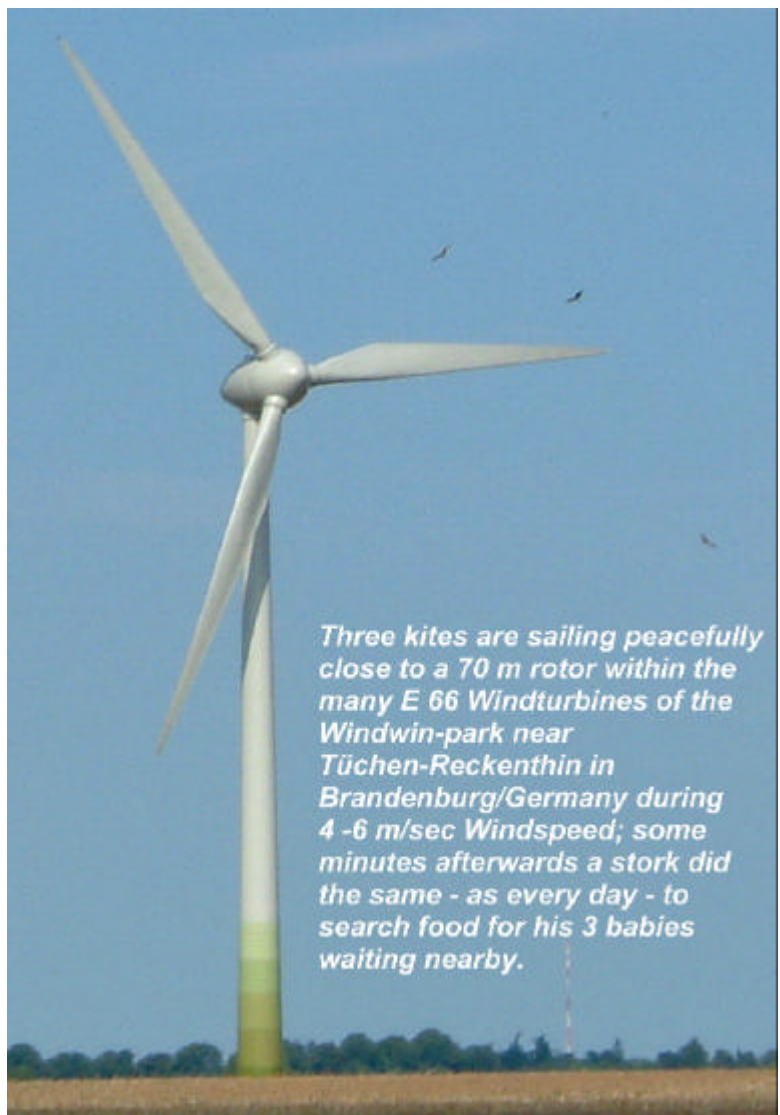
He changed his mind:

While no chicks were raised from the eggs in the past years, three stork chicks hatched from the eggs this year. Recently, at the end of July, they made their first attempts at flying. Towards the middle or end of August, depending on the weather, they will fly south again.

Just as the stork does, other birds fly by a close-by wind turbine in the same park – here...

3 Kites >>>>>>

Bodies of dead birds, always feared by so-called environmentalists, were nowhere to be found.



Three kites are sailing peacefully close to a 70 m rotor within the many E 66 Windturbines of the Windwin-park near Tüchen-Reckenthin in Brandenburg/Germany during 4 -6 m/sec Windspeed; some minutes afterwards a stork did the same - as every day - to search food for his 3 babies waiting nearby.