



## *Tanya Simon - Nature Réserve Warden*

Jon Okay, I'm with Tanya Simon at the nature reserve near Glomel. Tanya, are you a bird specialist?

Tanya Hello. No, I'm not really a bird specialist. I'm generalist in my job. I work on the reserve nature and other sites in Kreiz Breizh, and I .. I can talk about a few species – a few bird species – but I'm not a specialist.

Jon Okay, we can hear a few birds singing away merrily now, and we can also hear an aeroplane, unfortunately, the first one this morning. Can you recognise any birds just from their song?

Tanya No, not really, just the most common birds, not all the species. It's really complicated.

Jon Like the cuckoo.

Tanya Yes, the cuckoo, it's, it's easy. Everyone knows it. And the little tits, sometimes other birds, but really a few.

Jon Right, this nature reserve is 87 hectares, it's very big. Is it primarily intended to protect wildlife or to encourage people to respect and enjoy nature?

Tanya The primary is to protect the species – the bio.. biodiversity. And there ... and after, we can ... some people can walk on the, the path, and discover the natural ...

Jon Richness?

Tanya Richness, on the sites, that we can, uh, we can manage and protect.

Jon Do you actually keep a track of how many visitors come here every year?

Tanya Yes, we have ... er ...

Jon You have an electronic counter?

Tanya Yes, sorry. We have an electronic counter that counts the visitors on the path, and we have an idea of the, the, the numbers for a year.

Jon And are the numbers up year on year?

Tanya We have the numbers for 2015 ... er, 5..., 5000 visitors for a year.

Jon That's not bad, but it's a lovely site here. Maybe you need some more?

Tanya No, er, no, in Kreiz Breizh it's, uh, it's already nice, it's already enough, I think. And the site is not really big, so it's also a place for biodiversity, for birds, for animals, and it's a quiet place for them. So, I think it's enough.



Jon It's a quiet place except for these aeroplanes. We must be underneath a flight path, today!

Tanya Yes.

Jon Okay. Do you actually keep a track of the number of animals here?

Tanya Yes, we have several ... we, we follow the populations of different species, like birds, we talked about it. We, we count the newts and the frogs some times in the year, several times in the year. So it depends also on the needs for the reserve.

Jon I've never seen a newt before. But, okay, what's the most exotic animal you've seen here?

Tanya The most exotic ... yes, the newt it's quite exotic, when you see the colours.

Jon So what colours are they?

Tanya Yellow, blue ... it depends on the species. We have three species, er, we have the marbled newt. I don't know if it's the same name in English, but the marbled, so we have marbles on the body.

Jon Are you always looking out for volunteers to help?

Tanya Yes, for, um for a few actions in the time, times a year. Sometimes we need volunteers, and we ... we see with the local people, who's available for it.

Jon Is it necessary for the volunteers to speak good French?

Tanya Nnnnnno, no.

Jon Do you have any or have you ever had any English volunteers?

Tanya No.

Jon Right. Is there a full training programme for people who want to volunteer?

Tanya No, not training. We ... everyone is welcome. We need curiosity ... curious people for, and volunteers, so it's good like that.

Jon How important are reserves like this?

Tanya Here in Kreiz Breizh, for example?

Jon Or generally.



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Tanya So we need some space for the species, wild species, because the human is everywhere and we, we occupy the space. So we need some places like the reserve, and other, the other space, like a network, to create a network everywhere for the species.

Jon What exactly is this network?

Tanya Species, the world species, are moving, so they travel from place to place. And, uh, and so you need some trees, some uh, some fields, some pasture, to, to provide the food for them. And so they're moving, like us, like humans.

Jon Right, you say this is a small reserve, but 87 hectares to me sounds quite big. How many people do you have working here? How many salaried staff?

Tanya In the association, we are now three. Four sometimes, it depends of the missions in the year. Actually, we are four, and in general we are two or three.

Jon And the last question, Tanya, what's your favourite animal?

Tanya Ah ... I could say my favourite bird. It's a bird that we cannot find in Bretagne. It's a Milan royale. The ... it's a bird of prey, quite big, and it's found mostly in the Pyrenees, in the south of France.

Jon I would guess a golden eagle. But I might be wrong. Any listeners, send some postcards in to win a prize next month. Tanya, thank you very much.

Tanya Thank you. Good bye.