



The area (SPA) nominated according to the Bird Sanctuary Directive comprises about 3,100 ha and includes the European Conservation Area “Hangwiesen Rohrbach-Schattendorf-Loipersbach incl. Rohrbacher Kogel“ described in the Council Directive 92/43/EEC.

Part of the SPA are situated within the Landscape Protection Area Forchtenstein-Rosalia (cadastral communities Forchtenstein, Neustift, Mattersburg, Marz and Sieggraben). Due to these facts and by establishing the nature park, it is surrounded by Protected Areas or separated parts are connected. The slopes of the wooded heights of the Rosalia and Ödenburger Mountains form the transition to an open, for current conditions still extremely richly structured cultural landscape. That landscape is particularly characterized by extensive open orchard meadows with numerous Sweet Chestnut trees. Between the fields divided into small lots, vineyards, dry grassland and meadows with medium and high-stemmed fruit tree cultures, numerous field shrubs and trees, hedges and rows of trees have developed. Forest edges stretching far into the surrounding landscape and small remaining islands of wood are the basis for a mosaic pattern of interlinking, yet most diverse habitats. In the valley sites near Schattendorf and Rohrbach (NPA Teichwiesen) remarkable wetland areas have been preserved.

### **Protected Features:**

