

Animals symbolizing the Loire River

Heron's flight

Around the Loire River, wading birds, there is a mix of wading birds, sparrows, and lots of other species. The master of the place is obviously the grey heron, omnivorous and solitary wading bird watching, motionless and dreadful, pieces of lives around the Loire River. Unrivalled hunter on the Loire's banks, the grey heron has been protected since 1974 and begins to settle in cities such as Orléans where it finds the quality of environment needed for its development.

Beaver's reintroduction

The European castor was decimated in France at the end of the twentieth century and successfully reintroduced in Loiret. Now relatively widespread along the banks of the Loire River, the specie is still fragile and particularly vulnerable. Hunters' mistakes, lets, coypus' traps, are such challenges it has to deal with in order to survive. The Loire Valley being registered in UNESCO world heritage enables the protection of the habitat as to the protection of the particular fauna and flora of the Loire River. The beaver can now be seen in Saint-Pryvé-saint-Mesmin national natural reserve.

Salmon's return

At the end of the nineteenth century, salmon was an important source of income on the entire Loire-Allier basin. However, with the apparition of navigation dams and then hydraulic dams in the twentieth century, its main reproduction areas in Europe almost disappeared to the quasi disappearing of the specie (4500 captures in 1890 to 1000 in 1975). Water pollution, water warming, bridges development and excessive fishing are the dangers threatening them when they swim up the Loire River to their spawning ground. The rehabilitation of Orléans canal and the creation of fish lifts enabled the salmon to come back, shyly but surely, to spawn in the waters he used to spawn.

