



Of nightingales & skylarks - Encountering birds in the city

Introduction

With her book **Silent Spring** from 1962, Rachel Carson is now regarded as one of the most important pioneers of contemporary nature conservation. She was one of the first to specifically address the dramatic loss of biodiversity and illustrates this with the disappearance of birds, to which "silent" refers in the title. At the same time, studies show that biodiversity is often higher in cities today than in the countryside. We always see places of urban silence where the soundscapes of the city take a back seat to those of "nature". This is particularly impressive at night, when nightingales sing in cemeteries and parks while the traffic noise around them diminishes. The Tempelhofer Feld, far from the streets of Neukölln, is home to the highest density of skylarks in Berlin. Both species - nightingales and skylarks - have become iconic species, not least due to their frequent mention in art and literature and as "flagship species" in nature conservation. Their extraordinary song, volume and persistence have always fascinated and inspired mankind.

Everyone knows the names of these birds, but who knows what they sound or look like? By the festival weekend, most of the birds will have retired to raise their young and it will be quieter. In order to draw attention to how many nightingales and skylarks we are surrounded by in the city, the work *Nachtigall, ich hör dir trapsen* (Nightingale, I hear you chirping) will guide visitors to an audio recording using a QR code wherever a real territory of a nightingale or skylark can be found: From artistic explorations referencing one of the two bird species, such as poems, music, films or literature, to onomatopoeic descriptions of the vocalizations (simplified: songs), as found in identification books, to short stories of people from Neukölln who have a connection to these birds.

We are exhibiting **over 20 sound installations** at a total of **13 locations** in Neukölln. We start in the north of Neukölln: in the **rose garden (1)** of Volkspark Hasenheide. From there, we take a detour to the extensive **Columbiadamm cemetery (2)**, which offers a really beautiful view of both the Şehitlik Mosque and **Tempelhofer Feld (3)**. The latter is the next destination on the route: a total of five works can be found around the central part of the field, where around 200 pairs of skylarks breed between April and August. The **churchyards of St. Thomas I (4)** and **St. Thomas II (5)** form the next section of the tour: a particularly large number of nightingales have made the dense shrubbery here their summer residence - we counted at least 10 breeding pairs in April. Two of our works can also be found in the **Prinzessinnengärten (6)** at St. Jacobi cemetery, where the Flamingo e.V. group meets every Wednesday to garden together. Now we head south: via the **Buschkrugallee cemetery (7)** to the **Kleingartenanlage Morgentau e. V. (8)**.

Incidentally, the Berlin Britzenale has taken place here several times - look out for the QR codes in the information boxes at the entrances and exits! For the next section, it's worth getting off your bike

if you're not already on foot: a green path stretches along the **Fennpfuhl (9)**, where the silence of the city can be heard particularly well. From here, it's not far to **Schloss Britz (10)**: the next QR codes can be found at the next entrance to the palace park and in the windows of the building itself. The palace is also the southernmost point of our tour - but it's only 10 minutes by bike back to the creative space in the Galerie im **Körnerpark (11)** (and the Orangerie has an excellent drinks menu with a really impressive selection of spritzes). The **Comenius Garden (12)** in Richardstraße is the best example of how well nature and city can harmonize in the middle of Neukölln - surrounded by the remnants of the former Bohemian village, you feel like you've been transported to the countryside. The last point of the tour takes us to the Landwehr Canal: After listening to our last work at **Trusepark (13)**, you can end the day perfectly by the water.

Finally, a really important note: In the spirit of this year's festival theme - Urban Silence - **we would like to ask you to behave respectfully at the various exhibition points** towards the breeding birds and other representatives of Neukölln's urban nature as well as towards the respective locations, especially the cemeteries. Take headphones for you and your companion, scan the QR codes and find a nice place to listen to what you hear. We wish you lots of fun and wonderful experiences!

Shortcuts

List of all locations (you can find the exact points on Komoot: <https://shorturl.at/xvFvX>)

(1) Volkspark Hasenheide/ Rosegarten

Hasenheide 1, 10967 Berlin

Friday 28.06.2024: 7pm – 10pm

Saturday 29.06.2024: 10am – 10pm

Sunday 30.06.2024: 10am – 7pm

(2) Cemetery Columbiadamm

Columbiadamm 122, 10965 Berlin

Friday 28.06.2024: 7pm – 10pm

Saturday 29.06.2024: 10am – 10pm

Sunday 30.06.2024: 10am – 7pm

(3) Tempelhofer Feld

Entrance Herrfurthstraße and Leinestraße

Friday 28.06.2024: 7pm – 10pm

Saturday 29.06.2024: 10am – 10pm

Sunday 30.06.2024: 10am – 7pm

(4) St. Thomas-Kirchhof

Hermannstraße 180, 12049 Berlin

Friday 28.06.2024: 7pm – 10pm

Saturday 29.06.2024: 10am – 10pm

Sunday 30.06.2024: 10am – 7pm

(5) St. Thomas-Kirchhof II

Hermannstraße 80-83, 12049 Berlin

Friday 28.06.2024: 7pm – 10pm

Saturday 29.06.2024: 10am – 10pm

Sunday 30.06.2024: 10am – 7pm

(6) Prinzessinnengarten / St. Jacobi-Cemetery

Hermannstraße 99-105, 12051 Berlin

Friday 28.06.2024: 7pm – 10pm

Saturday 29.06.2024: 10am – 10pm

Sunday 30.06.2024: 10am – 7pm

(7) Cemetery Buschkrugallee

At the entrance, Jahnstraße 31, 12359 Berlin

Friday 28.06.2024: 7pm – 10pm

Saturday 29.06.2024: 10am – 10pm

Sunday 30.06.2024: 10am – 7pm

(8) Kleingartenanlage Morgentau e. V.

Blaschkoallee 52, 12359 Berlin

Friday 28.06.2024: 7pm – 10pm

Saturday 29.06.2024: 10am – 10pm

(9) Fennpfuhl-Parkanlage Britz

Onkel-Bräsig-Straße 56, 12359 Berlin

Friday 28.06.2024: 7pm – 10pm

Saturday 29.06.2024: 10am – 10pm

Sunday 30.06.2024: 10am – 7pm

(10) Schloss Britz

Alt-Britz 73, 12359 Berlin

Saturday 29.06.2024: 12pm – 6pm

Sunday 30.06.2024: 12pm – 6pm

(11) Kreativraum in the Galerie in the Körnerpark

Schierker Str. 8, 12051 Berlin

Friday 28.06.2024: 7pm – 10pm

Saturday 29.06.2024: 10am – 10pm

Sunday 30.06.2024: 10am – 7pm

(12) Comenius Garden

Richardstraße 35, 12043 Berlin

Friday 28.06.2024: 7pm – 7.30pm

Saturday 29.06.2024: 12.30pm – 7.30pm

Sunday 30.06.2024: 12.30pm – 7.00pm

(13) Trusepark

Truseweg, 12059 Berlin

Friday 28.06.2024: 7pm – 10pm

Saturday 29.06.2024: 10am – 10pm

Sunday 30.06.2024: 10am – 7pm