



LAKE ALSERIO

This point of interest is not located along the itinerary. The vantage point for the view can be found in via Crotto Rosa.

DESCRIPTION

(Silvia Fasana)

Nestled between green hills, in an area fortunately not affected by massive and uncontrolled urbanization, Lake Alserio has maintained a wild charm, unusual for an angle of Brianza. Originally it formed a single body of water with Lake Pusiano, in a natural basin formed by an ice tongue from the north; the two basins were then separated from the accumulation of alluvial deposits transported by the river Lambro at the exit of the Valassina valley. It is fed mainly by springs and occasional small seasonal streams; the effluent is a tributary of the River Lambro.

From the naturalistic point of view the area is of considerable importance for the presence of a mosaic of different environments, characterized by a variety of local plant and animal species: from the lake, surrounded by a dense grove of reeds, to the fen, the woods, the cultivated meadows. In particular, some rare and interesting plants, normally to be found at higher altitudes (“microthermal relicts”) have been reported in swampy areas, due to the particularly humid microclimate of the areas close to the lake.

However, the main naturalistic interest for the area surrounding Lake Alserio is linked to the presence of a great variety of resident and migratory birds. Among aquatic species the great crested grebe, the moorhen, the common coot, the pochard, the teal, the northern shoveler, the garganey and the mallard; the cane thicket attracts of course the warbler, the reed warbler, the reed bunting, the Savi's warbler, the water rail, the spotted crane, the little bittern and the grey heron. Up to thirty years ago, there were reports of the presence of the otter, a mammal closely related to freshwater, but which unfortunately has now disappeared from the province of Como and most of Italy.

The eastern shore of the lake is without doubt its best preserved part: for this reason in 1984 it was declared “Riserva Naturale Orientata (Oriented Nature Reserve)” by the Lombardy Regional Council. The management of this Reserve was entrusted to the Consorzio Parco della Valle del Lambro (Consortium of the Lambro Valley Park), as the entire Lake Alserio is part of the Lambro Valley Park. The protected area includes a flat strip crossed by the effluent and mostly occupied by marsh vegetation and cultivated meadows, and, south, by the slope of the Buerga – Monguzzo's hill – covered by a wood dominated by ash trees and hornbeams. In 2003 Lake Alserio was identified as Site of Community Importance (SCI).