



Guide to Hunting in Germany

08n – OTHER GAME

(1) Marmot (*Murmeltiere*)



Marmot (*Alpenmurmeltier*)

Gestation period:	6 weeks
Males:	<i>Bär</i>
Females:	<i>Katze</i>
Young:	<i>Affen</i>
Bavarian name:	<i>Mankei</i>

The **Marmot (*Alpenmurmeltier*)** is found in the Alpine regions of Europe at elevations from 5,000 to 9,000 feet. It resembles the North American species in appearance, color, and size. Marmots are 24 inches long and have short, bushy tails that are 4 to 6 inches long.

The weight of the animal in fall (after the accumulation of a thick layer of fat) may reach ten pounds. Marmots eat grass, herbs, and roots. The mating season is immediately after their emergence from hibernation in the spring. Following a gestation period of 6 weeks, the female Marmot usually gives birth to two to four young.

The young develop fairly rapidly because they must be strong and fat for the coming winter's long sleep. The hibernation period extends from October through March or April, depending on how quickly the snow melts. There is no open season for Marmot in Germany. However, Marmot hunting in Austria is popular.



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(2) Seals (*Robben*)



Seals (*Robben*)

The common **Seal (*Robben*)** can attain a length of up to 5 feet, and before mating season, old males may weigh close to 200 pounds. The body of the seal is torpedo shaped with a rounded head. The hind limbs are permanently turned rearward to ease water movement.

The front limbs (flippers) are little more than hands in external appearance. These flippers are folded against the side of the body while swimming.

Seals are at home in salty water and spent most of their life in the sea. The common seal is found along the coastal waters from New Jersey to Greenland and from Spain to the Arctic coast of Norway. In Germany seal is found along the coast of the North Sea.

There is now no open season for seal. The hunting law, however, requires that an annual game census be taken.



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(3) Snipe (*Bekassine*)



Snipe (*Bekassine*)

The **Snipe (*Bekassine*)** may be confused with the Woodcock because of its similarly long bill, habitat, and general appearance. The snipe can be distinguished from the woodcock, however, by the markings on its head, its smaller body, its sharply pointed wings, and its zigzag flight pattern.

The nickname “goat of the sky” (*Himmelsziege*) originates from the sound of the vibration of air passing through the Snipe cock’s extended wings during a high speed plunge to earth.



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(4) Capercaillie (*Auerhahn*)



Capercaillie (*Auerhahn*) Male Cock (L) Female Hen (R) *Männlicher Hahn* (L) / *Weibliches Henne* (R)

The mature male **Capercaillie (Auerhahn)** weighs between 10 and 12 pounds. The tail is 12 to 13 inches long and consists of 16 feathers in a young cock and 18 to 20 in an old cock. The complete wingspan is about 50 inches. The hen (*Auerhenne*) is about one-third smaller than the cock.



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In Germany, Capercaillies inhabit hilly or mountainous, densely forested areas in the Alps, *Schwarzwald*, *Odenwald*, and *Spessart*. These birds favor remote pine forests with undergrowth and blueberries. Capercaillies eat a variety of food (for example, buds, leaves, pine needles, berries, insects, grasses). They eat grit, which serves as a necessary digestive aid.

There is no open season for the Capercaillie in Germany, but they are hunted in Austria.

(5) Black Grouse (*Birkhahn*)



Black Grouse (*Birkhahn*) Bibliothèque nationale de France

An old male **Black Grouse (*Birkhahn*)** weighs about 3 ½ pounds, attains a length of about 24 inches, and has a wingspan of about 37 inches.

The lyre-shaped tail is about 8 inches long, and the tail feathers are sharply curled (*Stoss*). The hen is about 1/3 smaller than the cock, and, although its tail is also lyre-shaped, the tail feathers do not curl.

The favorite places of *Birkwild* are large heather areas with birch trees and on moors among blueberry bushes *Birkwild* do not like dense forests and, if found in the mountains, will often be near the upper tree line.

Birkwild eat young buds, leaves, berries, insects, grass, and other plants. The *Birkwild* eat grit to aid digestion.



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There is no open season for Birkwild in Germany. Birkwild is hunted in Austria and with great success in Russia and the North European countries.



Black Grouse (*Birkhahn*)



Rackelhahn Cock (*Rackelhahn*)

Rackelwild is a result of interbreeding *Auerwild* and *Birkwild*.