

Birding Southern Sweden



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This brochure is a collaboration between seven southern Swedish bird sites. The provinces mentioned in the brochure are shown on the map (italic).

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Falsterbo | 5. Getterön |
| 2. Lake Åsnen | 6. Lake Hornborga |
| 3. Ottenby | 7. Lake Tåkern |
| 4. Store Mosse and Lake Draven | |



Birdwatching as sustainable tourism

A joint project, part-financed by the EU North Sea Programme, which seeks to develop bird rich wetlands in countries around the North Sea, has run throughout 1999–2001. The project, WISP – Wetlands in Spatial Planning, aims to research the possibilities for developing wetlands to stimulate tourism in the future. Important guiding principles have been to increase the nature value, improve the local economy and local participation, commitment to information provision and development of public access both nationally and internationally.

The project has published an initial report on each international wetland area. There are twelve wetland areas in the six participating countries. Two guidelines have been produced. One guideline on sustainable tourism and one on quality. A popular publication of the twelve sites has also been published. The publications have been published jointly with the international Ramsar organisation.

Further information about the publications can be found at the project's web-site: www.eurowetlands.com. The Swedish wetlands covered by the project included lake Östen, Hornborgasjön and Getterön. Special presentation efforts have also been carried out within the scope of the WISP-project. Länsstyrelsen in Halland has run the project along with Naturvårdsverket/

Hornborgasjön and the German partners who all have been part of the project lead group.

The launch of Sweden's fine bird areas for Swedes as well as foreign visitors was one aim of the Swedish part of the project.

It was decided to concentrate on the southern part of Sweden in the first stage as this area was within reach of highly populated countries south of Sweden. The southern Swedish bird sites have many exotic birds to offer to the nature lovers from the southern bordering countries. Information points, new thoroughfares, bird towers and hides have led to an increase in accessibility to many bird areas in recent years.

The WISP-project has had a fruitful partnership with representatives of many of southern Sweden's finest bird areas. Not least of which is with the Swedish Ornithological Society (Sveriges Ornithologiska Förening) through which 'Birding Southern Sweden' has been realised. 'Birding Southern Sweden' will be the door to further study of bird life in wonderful places such as the Baltic Sea archipelago, middle Sweden's lake rich landscape, Norrland's conifer woods and mire areas and the Arctic mountain areas in the northernmost part of Sweden.

Per Magnus Åhrén

Project leader WISP, Halland County Administrative Board

Birding Southern Sweden

Editor:

Anders Wirdheim, Sveriges Ornithologiska Förening

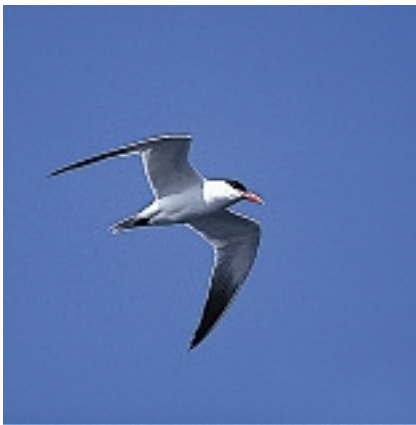
e-mail: anders.w@ornitologerna.se

Editorial Consultants: Dirk Harmsen and Per Magnus Åhrén, WISP project.

Front cover photo: Red-backed Shrike. Lennart Mathiasson/N.

Next page (clockwise from upper left):

Caspian Tern (photo: Hannu Kiuttu), Red Kite (P-G Bentz), Nutcracker (John Larsen), Black Woodpecker (Lennart Mathiasson/N), Penduline Tit (Patrik Olofsson/N), Thrush Nightingale (Hannu Kiuttu), Eagle Owl (Mikael Nord), King Eider (Per Magnus Åhrén), Cranes (Jan Töve/N), Capercaillie (Lars Carlsson), Osprey (Bruno Sundin) and Barred Warbler (Björn-Eyvind Swahn/N).



Birdwatching in Southern Sweden

Southern Sweden has a lot to offer to those who are interested in nature and especially birds. Within an hour you can move from bustling coastal areas with sea species to desolate mires with a large influx of northern birds or to large bird lakes with a very rich variety of bird species. In the southern areas there are also magnificent rich deciduous woodlands of continental character and in the east there are the striking bare limestone soils areas of Öland. There are few other areas in Europe that can offer such a variety of habitats or such a rich and varied collection of birds.

Sweden is distinguished from many countries in Europe in being so sparsely populated. You are often near to wild country. Furthermore, in principle we have free access to the countryside. With responsibility, and care of cultivated land, we have right to roam free over the countryside. Such freedom is not available in many European countries.

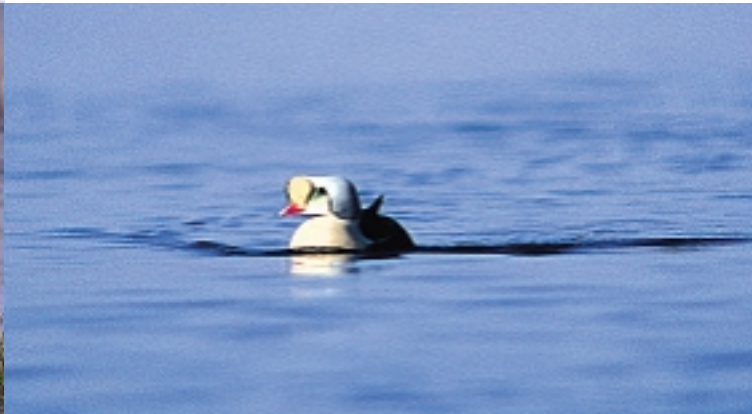
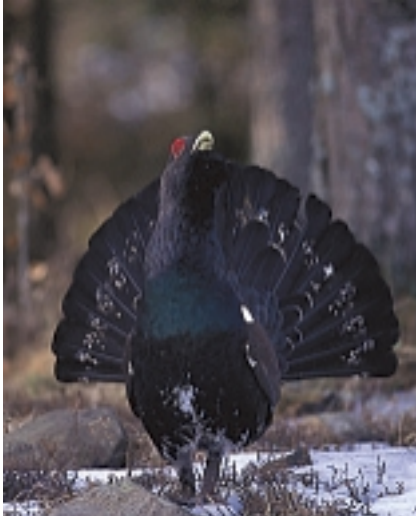
Southern Sweden is an important migratory path in spring and autumn. The impressive bird of prey migration over Falsterbo is known as one of Europe's best. Less well known is the spring and autumn seabird migration that follows the southern coast of the Scandinavian peninsula or the passerine migration that can be seen on autumn days. Well known over Europe is the mass gathering of Cranes at Lake Hornborga in April. Considerably less well known is e.g. the huge Red-throated Diver flocks at the Bay of Laholm in May or the gathering of waders on Öland in late summer.

A travelling bird watcher cannot experience birds alone. In southern Sweden there are many hostels, cottages to let and campsites, and hotels and guesthouses in all standards of price. For those camping or using a campervan/caravan, you can camp, responsibly, overnight in a large part of southern Sweden for free.

Nowadays it is quite cheap both to stay in and to get to Sweden from the British Isles.

Last but not least, information about birding is well developed in southern Sweden. Most regions have their own telephone information service that is updated at least once a day. If you have access to the Internet you can follow what is happening on the birding front via many different web sites (see page 23).

*Anders Wirdheim,
Editor, Swedish Ornithological Society*





White-tailed Eagle.

The Bird Year in southern Sweden

Winter is a time when bird watching goes into low gear over large parts of northern Europe. Snow, cold not to mention ice cover, means that there is a shortage of birds around.

This can also be true for the inland parts of southern Sweden. But in flat areas, and above all, along the coast, it is the opposite, a fun time for the bird watcher. It is good for birds of prey over the open landscape and along the coast there are large gatherings of sea birds. One example of such a combination is Lake Åsnen in southern Småland. Large numbers of Goosander can be found at the lake until the lake freezes. Considerable numbers of White-tailed Eagles hang over the fishing Goosanders. In recent years there have been almost 10 000 Goosanders and 45 White-tailed eagles. It is a spectacle well worth a visit.

Inland southern Scania in winter is also well worth a visit. Many bird watching organisations arrange special "birds of prey

trips" with whole days in the area of Fyledalen and Näsbyholm. These trips are always worthwhile with many of e.g. White-tailed Eagles and Golden Eagles, Red Kites and many other birds of prey species often with large flocks of geese. Southern Sweden has been further enriched with visitors from the north in recent winters. Large flocks of Waxwings have become a yearly phenomenon. The last two winters (1998–99 and 2000–01) have seen considerable numbers of Pine Grosbeaks come down to southern Sweden. Most winters there are even northern owls to look at. Two Snowy Owls resided just south of Malmö, in the winter of 1999–2000, a Great Grey Owl resided in southern Halland in the winter of 2000–2001 and a pair of Hawk Owls resided in Scania and Halland in both winters. The winter of 1999–2000 was an unusually good year for Pygmy Owls.

Spring comes early to the coastal areas of southern Sweden. The first Greylag Geese, Shellducks, Lapwings and Skylarks are already arriving at the end of January. The first real big spectacle comes as we move from March into April. Hundreds of thousands of Common Eider migrate along the southern Swedish coast to their breeding grounds in the Baltic Sea and White Sea. Among the Common Eiders there is quite a number of King Eiders. It is a wonderful experience to be at a migration place on a good Eider day. Happiness is close to perfect if one or more King Eiders fly past.

Whooper Swan migration in southern Sweden peaks at the same time as the Eider migration. Whooper Swan flocks can be seen at many places but especially numerous at Lake Östen in Västergötland and Lake Tysslingen in Närke. There are thousands of swans together – a spectacle for eyes and ears.

The first Cranes are already arriving in southern Sweden in March. It is local breeding birds that come so early. The really large numbers of northerly breeding birds wait until the beginning of April. Then they come, flock after flock, from the sea at southern Scania and continue up to Kristianstad's Vattenrike or Lake Hornborga. They rest there in their thousands before continuing their journey up to northern Scandinavia. The Crane stop over at Lake Hornborga is the outstandingly most popular event in the whole of spring. There are usually around 10 000 resting or dancing Cranes and more than 100 000 people enjoy the spectacle every year.

More in the background, in the wooded areas, is the Black Grouse lek and the Capercaillie lek as well as calling owls. You can enjoy listening to the Black Grouse lek and the owls from a far distance, but if you want to see the Black Grouse lek (not to mention the Capercaillie lek) you need local knowledge and great care.

During spring comes one bird migration after another over southern Sweden. This is due to local breeding birds and those that will move further northwards or eastwards. The Red-throated Divers are a special example in this context. They go round Denmark, over the Kattegat and then in over land at the Bay of Laholm in southern Halland. This migration is of birds heading to their breeding grounds in Russia and peaks in the first half of May. Every year Yellow-billed Divers are seen along with the Red-throated Divers. Seeing the Red-throated Divers come in overland at dawn is arguably one of the most fantastic sights. Flocks of Red-throated Divers up to 2200 have been seen. It is as though the whole sky is spotted with divers. Just at dawn, before the first rays of sunshine hit the land, the whole flock moves eastwards at high speed towards a distant mark.

King Eider migrating with Common Eiders at Getterön.



MATHIAS NORDLUND

MIKAEL NORD

It is most rewarding to visit the southern Swedish bird lakes in May. Tåkern has northern Europe's densest population of Great Bitterns. The Great Bittern's muffled booming and the Great Reed Warblers creaking song makes an impression on your visit, as does the Bearded Tit's incessant tinkling from within the reeds. At Lake Horborga it is perhaps grebes, if anything, that are the characteristic birds. The lake accommodates Sweden's largest colony of Black-necked Grebes, and with a bit of work and luck you may see all five of Europe's grebe species. Hammarsjön and Araslövssjön in Kristianstad's Vattenrike accommodate among other things, breeding Black Terns and Penduline Tits. The maintained beach meadows are good for waders and another characteristic bird, the Black-tailed Godwit. Ängsnäset at Falsterbo peninsula is the last outpost for the rare Kentish Plover.

May is also the month when many bird watchers go to Öland. The distinctive landscape there together with special bird life gives a good chance of seeing southeastern rarities. Among the local breeding birds there are Thrush Nightingales, Barred Warblers, Collared Flycatchers, Corncrakes and Montague's Harriers. There are also regular rarities such as the Red-rumped Swallow, Rose-coloured Starling and Marsh Sandpiper. But on Öland in May anything can appear . . .

A trip to Öland, especially the East Coast, during high and late summer, can be very rewarding. There are thousands upon thousands of waders on their way south again after breeding in the Arctic tundra. Many waders stopover at eastern Öland's extensive seaweed banks to feed. For bird watchers it is a rewarding time. Distances to the birds are often short and you can comfortably stand and look through the swarming flocks. It is not at all unusual to be able to see more than 30 species of waders on eastern Öland's wader beaches.

In August the autumn migration becomes more obvious over the whole of southern Sweden. Falsterbo, furthest out to the southwest, is a must for a visit for birdwatchers. At dawn you can stand out at the furthest point, Nabben, and watch passerines move southwesterly or watch seabirds and waders leaving the Baltic Sea. Later on in the morning the birds of prey migration starts. Towards the end of the month there can be rewarding days with large numbers of Honey Buzzards. A Black Stork or Lesser-spotted Eagle or other rare bird of prey can enhance the occasion.

Even as autumn progresses the bird of prey and small bird migrations are still worthwhile at Falsterbo, but by then it is Common Buzzards and Sparrowhawks that dominate the birds of prey and it can even be good for Red Kites. Extremely numerous among the small birds are the Chaffinches.

A considerably less well-known fine autumn migration is on offer at the Halland coast and northwestern Scania. When there is a long lasting easterly wind birds concentrate along the Swedish West Coast. With such an occasion it is not unusual to be able to count over half a million migrating finches during a morning at the southern Halland coast, or that the number of Common Buzzards there or at the Southwest coast of Scania can reach 2000. The autumn seabird migration from southern Hanöbukten, south of Kristianstad is also very good.

In October the bird watcher's course often leads back to Öland. It is an exciting time with a taste of the Arctic and Siberia. From the Arctic come large numbers of geese, especially Barnacle Geese

Pine Grosbeak, a winter visitor.



PER MAGNUS ÅHRÉN

Thousands of Dunlins and other waders are seen in summer.

and Brent Geese who either rest on the beach or migrate past in long bands. Small passerines e.g. Pallas's Leaf Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler and Dusky Warbler can be sought, with a little patience, in the shrubbery along the east beach.

Autumn near to the large bird lakes is often worthwhile. Large numbers of geese and cranes rest there. In flocks of Bean Geese you can often find all other European geese species such as the threatened Lesser White-fronted Goose. You can have a good experience early on an October morning at Lake Tåkern. Thousands of geese fly right overhead from their night resting places on the lake to the fields with a red morning sky as a backdrop.

Certain autumns are rewarding along the Swedish West Coast. Many will surely remember the autumn of 1997 when prolonged west winds brought sea birds to the coast in numbers never seen before. It is very singular to experience a fine sea bird day with Sooty Shearwaters from South America, Sabine's Gulls from Canada and Greenland, Pomarine Skuas from Siberia, Fulmars and Gannets from the north Atlantic bird cliffs and Long-tailed Skua from the Scandinavian mountains!

Bird areas become quiet in late autumn. But on a still and clear morning you can hear the first silver bells from the sky – winter's first flock of Waxwings drift down and attack a mountain ash. Perhaps there will be some Pine Grosbeaks in motion this winter . . .



MIKAEL NORD



Falsterbo

It has been estimated that about 500 million birds leave Scandinavia every autumn. The migration goes on day and night at different altitudes. Some species spend the winter in western Europe or in the Mediterranean area. Others cross the vast Sahara desert and winter in the tropics.

Migrating birds do not fly over unknown or perilous areas unless they have to. For many birds the Baltic Sea is the first difficult barrier to cross on the southwestward migration route. Therefore, the birds rather follow the south and west coasts of Sweden until they finally reach Falsterbo. On good days you can see hundreds of thousands of birds migrating at Nabben, the southwesternmost point of the Falsterbo Headland. Most spectacular is the migration of raptors.

Falsterbo Headland is mainly built up of sand formed around some morainic ridges. The area constantly changes its shape and size as the sand is moved around by sea currents and wind. For centuries it was a treeless heathland with sand dunes, grazed meadows and fields. Nowadays this open landscape is mixed with woodlands and villa areas with many gardens.

The shallow shores of the Falsterbo Headland and Foteviken provide conditions for a rich production of the basic food for all kinds of shore-birds. Large parts of the coasts are included on the list of internationally important wetland areas (Ramsar areas) and Nature-2000 areas.

The autumn migration starts already in July, when waders, gulls and terns pass. From mid-August and about three weeks onwards passerines like Tree Pipits, Yellow Wagtails and Swallows are numerous and at about the same time the first migrating raptors are seen, usually Marsh Harriers and Ospreys. Towards the end of August the peak of the migration of Honey Buzzards occurs. Many other raptor species are also seen, for example Black Kite, Montagu's Harrier, Lesser Spotted Eagle,

Short-toed Eagle and Red-footed Falcon. Still, lots of waders can be seen along the shores and in trees and shrubberies many nocturnal migrants stop over. Late August is also the right time to find Wryneck and Red-backed Shrike.

During September the long-distance migrants are gradually replaced by those which spend the winter in the Mediterranean area or in south-west Europe. Honey Buzzards are replaced by Common Buzzards and Marsh Harriers by Hen Harriers. Red Kites are usually reaching their peak numbers during the end of September. Spotted Eagle and Steppe Eagle can be seen and sometimes Imperial Eagle.

"At regular intervals an occasional Osprey and Marsh Harrier pass by. Suddenly a larger and completely dark bird of prey appears alongside the Buzzards: a Lesser Spotted Eagle! It is the same bird as was seen a few days ago, at the time alongside another two Lesser Spotted Eagles and one Short-toed Eagle!

At noon it happens at last. In the distance we discover a flock of buzzards of about a hundred birds close together in a typical Honey Buzzard manner. Soon they are above us in large silent flocks. More and more appear and in the midst of them three more Lesser Spotted Eagles are discovered, neither of them identical to the one seen earlier.

The whole afternoon offers an endless stream of Honey Buzzards (in the end some 3000 during the day) and in addition hundreds of Sparrowhawks as well, more Marsh Harriers and Ospreys and even the fifth Lesser Spotted Eagle of the day. The last Ospreys appear just as the setting sun is sending its low rays over the purple flowering heather."

*From the bird observatory's diary 26 August 1989.
(Klaus Malling Olsen)*

In the later years, the highest daily totals of Common Buzzard (3000 – 5000) have occurred around 15 October, significantly later than for example in the 1960's.

October is also the time for Cranes and for irruptive migrants like Great Spotted Woodpecker, Black Woodpecker, Blue Tit, Jay, Nutcracker and others, which only occur in certain years. Exceptionally, Tengmalm's Owl and Pygmy Owl are seen too.

Winters are normally mild and waters seldom freeze, providing good wintering conditions for swans, geese, ducks and some wader species. Of special interest are for example Smew in the Falsterbo Canal (up to 200 seen). White-tailed Eagle and Peregrine are seen regularly during winter.

During spring, migrating birds occur in much smaller numbers than during autumn. A few species pass in several thousands



JENS B. BRUN

Red Kite

and during spring, for example, Barnacle Goose, Brent Goose and Eider. Among passerines Bluethroat, Ring Ouzel, Firecrest, Scarlet Rosefinch and Serin are seen almost every spring. In May, Thrush Nightingale, Marsh Warbler and Icterine Warbler are regular. Among breeding birds, there are species like Avocet, Kentish Plover, Dunlin (ssp. *schinzii*) and Little Tern on coastal meadows, Bearded Tit in the reeds and Serin in the town centre.

Most bird-watchers start their days at Nabben already at dawn. In favourable wind conditions it may be worth staying at Nabben the whole day. However, the classic spot for raptor observation is Skanörs Ljung (the Heath). Here you have a good view of the approaching flocks and you may also keep them in view for a long time. Another good spot is the Falsterbo Canal where raptors usually pass at lower altitude but are lost from view rather quickly. On days with low migration intensity a visit to Skanörs revlar or Knösen (the northern point) may be rewarding.

The migration at Falsterbo is observed and recorded by the activities at the Falsterbo Bird Observatory. Extensive ringing and migration counts for monitoring purposes are among the main activities. Bird ringing is mainly carried out within the Lighthouse Garden, which is out of bounds to visitors. People are kindly requested not to walk up to the mist-nets outside the Lighthouse garden.

Watching raptors may be the highlight for many visitors, but the Falsterbo Headland has much to offer bird-watchers all day and all year round.

	1999	Mean 1986–98
Honey Buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	5522	4985
Black Kite <i>Milvus migrans</i>	7	7
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	1183	628
White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	19	10
Short-toed Eagle <i>Circus gallicus</i>	1	0
Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1078	682
Pallid Harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i>	2	0
Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	180	206
Montague's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	10	10
Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	13	45
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	30072	15299
Common Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	18502	10544
Rough-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	254	1120
Lesser Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila pomarina</i>	1	5
Greater Spotted Eagle <i>Aquila clanga</i>	3	0
Imperial Eagle <i>Aquila heliaca</i>	1	0
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	3	2
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	413	239
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	611	404
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	262	197
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	58	40
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	40	28
Total	58235	34160

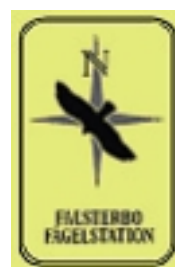
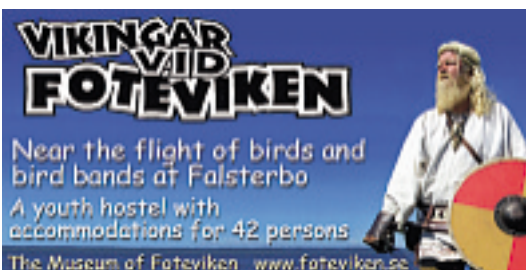
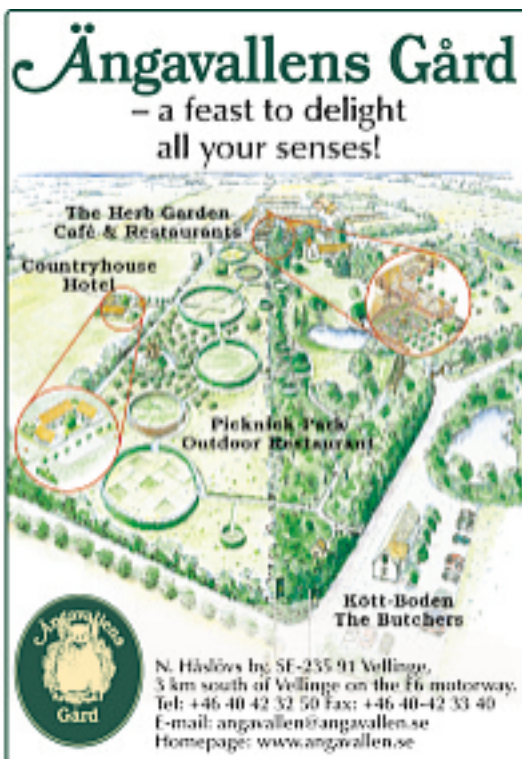
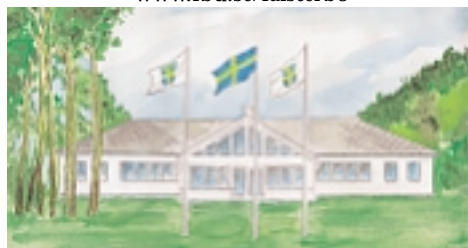
Migrating raptors at Falsterbo autumn 1999 and average annual totals 1986–1998.



– HÖLLVIKEN –

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Falsterbo kursgård,
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Visit
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info: www.skof.se/fbo/fbo.htm

Certain species and their status:

Black-throated Diver, 70 pairs
Great Crested Grebe, 100 pairs
Whooper Swan
Greylag Goose, 50 pairs
Lesser White-throated Goose, migration
Bean Goose, migration
Goosander, 70 pairs, >10 000 in autumn
Honey Buzzard, 20–25 pairs
Red Kite
White-tailed Eagle
Marsh Harrier, 7–8 pairs
Osprey, 50 pairs
Hobby, 15 pairs
Water Rail
Spotted Crake
Curlew 10–15 pairs
Little Gull
Common Tern 50 pairs
Black Tern
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker 20–25 pairs
Red-breasted Flycatcher

Lake Åsnen

Lake Åsnen is one of the largest lakes in southern Sweden and boasts a magnificent archipelago. The lake contains a number of shallow and irregular coves. The average lake depth is only 3 metres, while there are hundreds of islands in the lake. The total shoreline length along the coves and islands amounts to a distance of about 700 km. The size of the lake and the low number of inhabitants contributes to its natural wilderness.

It is surrounded largely by coniferous and deciduous forest that is home to a rich and diverse bird life. In the northern regions of the lake, close to Skatelöv cove, one can find large open countryside. This is ideal for waders, ducks and geese, especially during migration periods.

The lake is rich in nutrients and fish. The large supply of fish has, in part, an impact on bird life. Osprey and Black-throated Divers nest in the lake, while during late autumn and winter, thousands of Goosander and a large number of White-tailed Eagles fish in the lake.

Lake Åsnen is one of about 30 wetlands in Sweden that is protected by the international Ramsar convention. The lake is also included in Bird Life International's list of Important Bird Areas (IBA).



Greylag Geese are a common visitor to the shores of Lake Åsnen.



Bird species that comply with the criteria defined in the IBA are Goosander, Osprey, White-tailed Eagle, and Bean Goose. The rare fishing-eating Otter *Lutra lutra* can also be found in the lake.

The main attraction in the lake are the around 50 pairs of Osprey that nest here, one of Europe's largest collective groups. Other birds of prey nesting on the shores of Lake Åsnen are the Honey Buzzard, the Hobby and the Red Kite. The White-tailed Eagle has also begun nesting by the lake in the past number of years. During late autumn and winter, a large number (20 to 40) of White-tailed Eagles can be seen at the lake. They are attracted by the open, fish-abundant waters and by the carrion that is laid out by ornithologists during the winter months. The lake may also receive a visit from a number of Golden Eagles at this time.

The large number of islands and the abundance of fish provides the Black-throated Diver with ideal nesting conditions, with approx. 70 pairs nesting around the lake.

Lake Åsnen is also an important resting area for the Goosander during the autumn and winter months. Large flocks of between 4,000 and 6,000 birds, at times up to 20,000, fish and rest at the lake, until it freezes over.

At the outset of the century, the Greylag Goose was quite a rare nesting bird in these parts, but in recent decades, it has increased in number and can now be seen quite often in the area. The Bean Goose is the most common species of goose that uses Lake Åsnen as a resting point on their migration back and forth from nesting spots in the northern tundra. The geese rest

PER-ERIK LARSSON

PER-STEFAN HALBERG

PER-ERIK LARSSON



Cranes nesting in the Lake Åsnen region.

in open fields and spend the night by the lake in protective areas. The movement of large number of geese between feeding and protection areas is often very dramatic.

During the spring and autumn, the flocks of geese can also include rare bird species such as the Barnacle Goose, the Brent Goose, the White-fronted Goose, the Pink-footed Goose and the Lesser White-fronted Goose.

The marshland at Huseby, to the north of Lake Åsnen, was drained and tilled at the beginning of this century. The region was restored a number of years ago and transformed into a wonderful wetland for a variety of bird species.

A trip in the region surrounding Lake Åsnen offers you a pot-pourri of natural and cultural experiences. The area has been inhabited for quite some time and cultural relics from the Stone Age have been discovered. It is highly recommended to take the time to cycle or paddle around Lake Åsnen to experience the wonderful surroundings close at hand. There are a range of resting points and overnight accommodation options to choose from along the designated bicycle and canoe trails. The bicycle trails are confined to low traffic minor roads, while the canoe trails follow the lake's western shore from the north to the southern outlet.



INFORMATION

Tourism in Småland
Birds in Småland
Birds in Sweden
County Administrative Board

www.visit-smaland.com
www.kofnet.org
www.sofnet.org
www.g.lst.se

Korrö Arts & Crafts village

Idyllic nature reserve by Ronneby river with its origins from the 18th century.

Youth hostel, conference and camp facilities.
Coffee shop, meals for larger groups.
Canoeing, fishing, walking trails, bird life

Address: 360 24 LINNERYD, Sweden
Tel: +46 (0)470-342 49, www.turistcenter.se

Mjölknabbens Camping

Discover Lake Sirkön's wonderful natural surroundings in the Åsnen archipelago.

Cabins, canoeing and boats for hire
Birdwatching and feeding of White-tailed Eagles within sight of the camping area

Address: 360 13 URSHULT, Sweden
Tel: +46 070-542 84 55, www.mjolknabben.com

Lake Åsnen – Bird life eldorado in southern Sweden

Discover something out of the ordinary in the way of bird life. Expert guides are at hand to assist you or why not enjoy at your pace the wonderful natural surroundings and bird life on offer.

At Getnö, in the heart of the Lake Åsnen, you can take a quiet canoe ride, rent a rowboat or motorboat, and stay overnight in a cabin or camp in the designated Natural camping area.

Huseby marsh, by Huseby Mill, situated in the middle of the migratory route, is an ideal resting point for many rare bird species that can be seen from watchtowers and designated walkways. Restaurant, coffee shop, shop, cottages.

Getnö Gärd –Tourist and Conference facilities
360 10 RYD, Sweden
Tel +46 (0)477-240 11, www.getnogard.se

Huseby Mill
340 32 GRIMSLÖV, Sweden
Tel +46(0)470-75 20 97, www.husebybruk.com

Växjö Tourist information centre
Stationen, Norra Järnvägsgränd, 351 12 VÄXJÖ, Sweden
Tel +46 (0)470-414 10, www.turism.vaxjo.se



The lighthouse "Långe Jan" to the left. To the right a view from the lighthouse northwards along the eastern shoreline.

Ottenby nature reserve Öland

To find Ottenby nature reserve all you need is the world atlas in your pocket diary! Simply turn to the right after you have come over the bridge from Kalmar. Then drive 60km or until you begin to get wet feet . . . You cannot go further. Better than that can it simply not be.

Öland's southern point is, quite simply, an ornithological Eldorado. Naturally, it was not by chance that a bird observatory was placed at this unique spot in 1946. And also it is no accident that the reserve is visited by many thousands of birdwatchers. The place has everything it needs to attract millions of Scandinavian and Russian birds – its geographical situation, climate, thousands of years of tradition, and the famous island-effect.

Tired birds, which in spring have flown over 300km of open sea, are literally sucked down towards the inviting trees in the old lighthouse area. Or to the loaded larder that the waterlogged, leafy shore meadows in the east offer.

BJÖRN-EYVIND SWAHN / N



Barred Warbler.

In autumn the island acts as a funnel – birds hesitate before the long stage over the sea. They wait for the right flying weather, and use the time to fill with 'fuel'. The whole time they keep company with fellow-travellers from north and east.

The ornithologist who has the privilege to be able to visit Öland often finds that all seasons have their strengths. The same applies to those who have more interests than only birds – flowers, lichens, mushrooms, and so on. But for those forced to ration their visit to Öland, it becomes more important to choose the best time.

1 – 15 May

The really large numbers of Scandinavian and arctic birds pass by. The species diversity is large and many of Öland's breeding rarities return via Ottenby, for example Montagu's Harrier, Barred Warbler, Collared Flycatcher, Red-breasted Flycatcher, and

HANNU KIUTTU



Thrush Nightingale.

Common Rosefinch. Bluethroats, Lapland Longspurs, Rustic Buntings and sometimes also Little Buntings can be named from among the resting northern species.

15 May – 5 June

The number of individuals is reduced exposing a peak of rarities with accidental visitors from southeast and east Europe. Those regularly seen include, for example, Red-footed Falcons, Rose-coloured Starlings and Greenish Warbler. The species richness continues to be large in other respects, and the breeding birds are easy to observe on Öland. In addition to the breeding birds already mentioned, can be added Corncrake, Golden Oriole, Thrush Nightingale and Icterine Warbler. This period is also botanically interesting with many species of orchids flowering.

20 July – 10 August

The arctic waders begin now to drift southwards in large numbers. The order of travel is most often females, then males and, towards the start of autumn, juveniles. In the right weather, the waders gather on the seaweed shores all along the whole east coast, and are extremely easy to observe. This is a time of year when birdwatchers can, with good conscience, leave the rest of the family on a beach or among Öland's many tourist attractions. With a little persistency, most of Öland's rarities can still be teased out of the shrubs.

1 September – 25 October

The powerful autumn migration culminates around 15–20 October, when extreme rarities from the Russian taiga mix with numbers of Scandinavian birds. Regularly seen are, for example, Richard's Pipit, eastern wheatears, Pallas's Leaf Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler and Dusky Warbler.

More generally . . .

Yes, you are visiting one of UNESCO's newly-named so-called world heritage sites. The 6000-year history of people has created a cultural and natural environment that is beyond comparison. Within the reserve is Ottenby Vandrarnhem where you can stay cheaply but pleasantly. If you want to raise the standard somewhat, you should wend your way 15km northwards to Brukshotellet in Degerhamn, and if you want to combine your holiday on Öland with really comfortable living and fine food, we recommend Halltorp's Gästgiveri, south of Borgholm.



BRUNO SUNDIN

Houbara Bustard, october 1974.

At Öland's southern point there is a beautiful exhibition about bird migration, the well-established restaurant 'Fågel Blå', a 42-metre high lighthouse and a famous bird observatory that offers pre-booked tours. These facilities are run by the Swedish Ornithological Society (Sveriges Ornitologiska Förening).

A little way north along the east coast is Stenåsa, with the Society's shop 'Naturbokhandeln'. Here you can buy books, binoculars and outdoor equipment, eat at the restaurant Stenhusa Krog and stay at Stenhusa Bådd, at youth-hostel standard.

INFORMATION

Ottenby Naturum Tel. +46 (0)485 66 12 00
Ottenby Bird Observatory Tel. +46 (0)485 66 10 93
www.sofnet.org/ofstn/index.html

Sveriges Ornitologiska Förening Tel. +46 (0)8 612 25 30
www.sofnet.org

Naturbokhandeln Tel. +46 (0)485 441 00
www.naturbokhandeln.com

Below: Barnacle Gees on the meadows 'Schäferiängarna'.

ANDERS WIRDHEIM





Store Mosse National Park

A blend of northern and southern Scandinavian breeding birds characterises the bird life of the Store Mosse national park. The impression of being on a Lapland mire with displaying Whimbrels and Jack Snipe contrasts with breeding floodplain species such as Shoveler and Garganey in the park's bird lake, Kävsjön. A good selection of paths makes it easy to reach the mire where the Whimbrel breed. This is one of their few breeding places south of the main Scandinavian mountains.

At the same time, the 10-km of paths in the woods give visitors the chance to find species such as Crested Tit, Black Woodpecker, Tengmalm's Owl, and others. There is a cultural landscape at Södra Svänö with pollarded deciduous trees and pasture fields. Alert Nutcrackers, occasional Wrynecks, flycatchers and warblers thrive here. Black Grouse are common in the whole

BRUNO SUNDIN



Osprey.



LENNART MELLGREN

Black Grouse.

park, while Capercaillie display at a few places in the southern part, where Lövä makes a good exit point.

The season at Kävsjön gets going in March with Cranes, resting Goosanders and Smew, and dabbling ducks. In April the waders arrive, including breeding species such as Jack Snipe, Wood Sandpipers, Greenshanks, Curlews, Whimbrels, and Ruffs. Ospreys breed in the surroundings and fish regularly in the lake.

The best viewing point for the whole lake is from the large observation tower at the main car park, but the smaller tower gives better contact with the birds. Jack Snipe breed at many places in the park and display late in the evenings during April and May. There is a good chance for summer visitors to experience the display during the second display period that begins at the end of June.



Arctic waders rest during late summer along the lakes shores and the first hen harriers arrive in August. The first Golden and White-tailed Eagles arrive towards the end of October. Between November and March the eagles hunt over the southern part of the mire, where they can be observed from a hide.

221 species have been observed in the park. Among other breeding birds are Whooper Swan, Goosander, Hobby, Marsh harrier and Crane. Occasionally Tundra Swan, Red-footed Falcon, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Little gull, Hawk owl and Parrot Crossbill may be seen.

Lake Draven

Lake Draven lies about 5km south east of Reftele. The lake has regained its character as a floodplain lake in an old cultural landscape after a newly-completed restoration by damming, raised water level and vegetation control. The lake can now be counted as a bird locality of the highest significance.

The southern part of the lake has the greatest open water surface. This is the habitat of the greatest number of birds. Depending on the light conditions, one or other of the observation towers at Fridsnäs or Kinnaberg offer a fine view over the area.

The northern part of the lake consists chiefly of low swamp vegetation, reedbeds, dug canals, and river discharge, and is good land for rails and crakes. In the central and eastern parts of the lake is a rich mosaic of areas of open water that are most easily observed from the burial mounds on the lake's eastern side (there is a small parking place along the road in Hamra).

The west side consists of grazed shore meadows, with some open water opposite the observation tower at Väcklinge. The agricultural land south of Draven all the way to Norra Bolmen makes a significant resting place for cranes and geese, among others. There are toilets at the parking places for both observation towers. Barbecue sites are located at Fridsnäs and Kinnaberg. At Kinnaberg there is also a shelter for overnighting. There is a 9km long trail around the lake. Draven became well-known nationally in 1958, when a pair of Whooper Swans began to breed in the lake – one of the first in southern Sweden in modern times.

239 species have been observed at Draven. Among the breeding species are: Great Bitterns 1–2 pairs (3 booming males some years), Little Grebes, Greylags ca 10 pairs, Garganey many pairs, Marsh Harriers 1–2 pairs, Cranes ca 10 pairs, a Black-headed Gull colony with >1000 pairs, together with Little Gulls that



LENNART MATHIASON/N

Black Woodpecker.

display annually and possibly breed. In addition, the following occasional guests have been seen at the lake over the years: Black-necked Grebe (annual), Squacco Heron, Great Egret, Black Stork, White Stork, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Gadwall (possibly breeding), Ferruginous Duck, Red Kite (probably breeding in the area), Black Kite, Pallid Harrier, Gyr Falcon, Quail, Corncrake, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Great Snipe, Caspian Tern, White-winged Tern (annual), Hawk Owl, Hoopoe, River Warbler, Savi's Warbler, Golden Oriole, Yellow-breasted Bunting, and Rustic Bunting.

INFORMATION

Welcome to an interesting and healthy region with an own National Park and exciting bird lakes. For further information please contact:

Gislaved's Kommun tel. +46 (0)371 810 00

Gnosjö Kommun tel. +46 (0)370 33 10 41

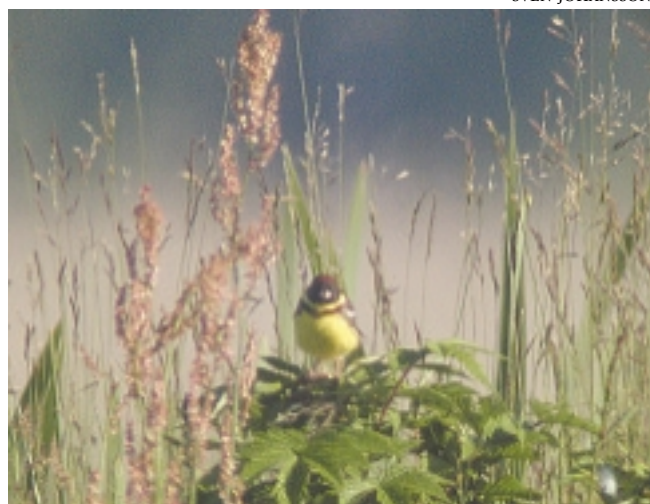
Vaggeryd's Kommun tel. +46 (0)393 781 50

Värnamo Turism tel. +46 (0)370 188 99,

fax +46 (0)370 157 11

e-mail: info@visit-varnamo.com; www.visit-varnamo.com

SVEN JOHANSSON



Yellow-breasted Bunting, Lake Draven, June 2001.

LENNART MELLGREN



Tengmalm's Owl.



Getterön nature reserve

The Getterön nature reserve consists of a part of the exposed seashore that dominates the central part of the Halland coast. The reserve lies within walking distance, only a few kilometres from the centre of Varberg and 70km south of Gothenburg.

The addition of Getterön's visitor centre in 1995 has made the reserve easily accessible for the general public, and there are new bird hides and observation points. Getterön's visitor centre is open daily between spring and autumn and at weekends in the winter. There is an exhibition there of wetland birds, an on-line web camera, conference facilities, art gallery, guides, trail loops, cafeteria and shop.

Getterön is dominated by low-lying shore meadows that are supplied with nutrients from water courses and from the sea. This provides a good food supply for all the areas breeding and resting wetland birds. Ten islands were built during restoration of the reserve in 1992–93, and these attract a large number of breeding birds, including the symbol, the Avocet.

MIKAEL NORD



White-tailed Lapwing, July 1997.



PER MAGNUS ÅHRÉN

Avocets

Characteristic breeding birds on the open shore are Black-tailed Godwit, Lapwing, Redshank, Dunlin, Ruff, Little Ringed Plover and Yellow Wagtail. On the islands there are breeding Black-headed Gulls (2500 pairs), Common Terns, Little Terns, Shoveler, Gadwall, Garganey and Teal. Water Rail, Reed Warblers, Bearded Tits and Marsh Harriers breed in the reeds. The reserve is regularly patrolled by hunting Peregrine Falcons.

Getterön is one of Sweden's foremost bird sites with no less than 327 observed species. Few places in Sweden, or even Europe, can boast such an impressive species list. The less usual visitors include: Frigatebird, Great Shearwater, Cory's Shearwater, Mediterranean Shearwater, Lesser Scaup, Collared Pratincole, Black-winged Pratincole, American Golden Plover, Sociable Lapwing, White-tailed Lapwing, Red-necked Stint, Long-billed Dowitcher, Lesser Yellowlegs, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Ross's Gull, Forster's Tern, Brünnich's Guillemot, Snowy Owl, Pacific Swift, Alpine Swift, Aquatic Warbler, Paddyfield Warbler, Hume's Leaf Warbler and Rose-coloured Starling.

February – March

The first migrants arrive in February with mild southwesterly low pressure systems. These are Greylags, Shelducks and Lapwings. Towards the end of March, the next wave of migrants comes – geese, thrushes, Chaffinches and the first Avocets. Out to sea, wave after wave of Common Eiders pass by towards breeding places in the Baltic Sea. In the inland woods, Black Woodpeckers and owls (Eagle owl, Pygmy Owl and Tengmalm's Owl) call most intensively from the end of March.

April – May

Getterön's nature reserve now fills quickly with birds. The Black-headed Gull colony becomes filled in the beginning of April and towards the end of the month the terns can also be enjoyed at a comfortable distance from the hides. The Lapwings' downy chicks see daylight in the first week of May, followed by the Avocets' young a couple of weeks later. All dabbling duck species and large numbers of arctic waders roost together with rarities such as Mediterranean Gull, White-winged Tern, etc.

June – July

In the first half of June the growth of the young birds becomes noticeable. In the cultural landscape around Getterön, it is first and foremost the night singers that attract birdwatchers – Corn-crake, Quail, Nightjars, Wood Larks and some individual River or Blyth's Reed Warblers. Flocks with many thousands of waders can be seen on good days as July turns into August.

August – October

Upto 5000 dabbling ducks rest during the larger part of August. Geese land at the end of August, culminating during September and October with many thousands of, at times, all the European species. Westerly storms regularly bring Fulmars and Gannets in large numbers. Also regular, but fewer in number, are Leach's Storm-petrel, Sooty Shearwater, and Manx Shearwater.

November – February

Now the real arctic species are often drawn down to Getterön. Purple Sandpipers turn up along the coast. In certain years Hawk and Snowy Owls are seen. White-tailed Eagles are often seen daily, and so are hunting peregrines. When the cold becomes severe, many birds are concentrated at the canal. It is then possible to enjoy Kingfishers, Great Bitterns, Smew, Little Grebes and Whooper Swans from the cafeteria windows. Not many cafeterias can offer that! During the winter, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls are regularly seen, and also Great Northern Divers.

Visitor areas near Getterön

Along the Halland coast, characterised by marsh meadows intermingled with Sweden's best bathing beaches, there are a large number of excellent bird sites with good visitor facilities.

MIKAEL NORD



Caspian Tern.

Kungsbackafjorden. 35km north of Getterön. In the fjord is a beautiful archipelago of about 30 islands. Observation tower.

Båtafjorden. 15km north of Getterön. A large number of breeding waders, including Avocets and Black-tailed Godwits.

Gubbanäsan. 2km west of Getterön's nature reserve. Superb place for seabird watching.

Galtabäck. 10km south of Getterön. Observation tower. Good resting locality for waders and ducks.

Morups Tänge. Perhaps the West Coast's best roosting site for waders. Good winter location for Glaucous and Iceland Gulls.

Källstorps våtmark. 30km south of Getterön, immediately west of the E6 motorway. Artificial wetland with rich birdlife.

Pärp/Trönninge Ångar. 75km south of Getterön. Observation tower and hide. In *Laholmsbukten* there are large numbers of water birds. Good locality for seawatching.

INFORMATION

Getterön's Naturum

Information about activities, bird observations etc.

Tel. +46 (0)340 875 10. www.getteron.com

Varberg's Ornitologiska Förening

Offers accommodation with a marvellous view of the reserve.

Tel. +46 (0)340 150 10.

Länsstyrelsen Halland (County Administration Board)

Information about the reserve and the other Nature reserves in the county. Tel. +46 (0)35 13 20 00. www.n.lst.se

Tourist information

Varberg's Turistbyrå, Tel. +46 (0)340 88 770

www.turist.varberg.se

MIKAEL NORD





Hornborgasjön

Hornborgasjön (Lake Hornborga) lies between the large lakes Vänern and Vättern as a large depression in the landscape. The first discernible sign of the lake's origin began 10,000 years ago, when the inland ice sheet retreated. The area then consisted of a large shallow bay of the West Coast Sea. The area became separated from the sea as the land lifted following the ice retreat, and developed as a freshwater lake.

Hornborgasjön is one of Sweden's largest and most valuable bird lakes. At the end of the 19th century it was recognised to be north Europe's most distinguished bird lake and an important lake in the chain of wetlands that birds use on their migrations during both spring and autumn. The lake then had a maximum depth of 2m and had 3000ha of open water surface. After reductions of lake level from the beginning of the 19th century until 1930, the lake became transformed into a marsh with 21km of canals that carried water through the former lake.

After pressure from wildlife enthusiasts, the government requested that Naturvårdsverket should carry out a restoration of the lake, during the years 1988–1995, in order to regain the lake's value as a bird lake. A dam with water regulation was built at the lake's outlet and the water level raised by an average of 85cm. Today the lake has a maximum depth of 1.5m and an average depth of 0.9m. The lake consists of a mosaic of open water, reed and bush areas, together with shore meadows with a total wetland area of 3300ha.

The restoration of the lake is in a class of its own as Sweden's largest single nature protection project and has created the prerequisites for the return or increase of many wetland bird species. In total 280 species have been recorded at the lake, of which



JAN TÖVE/N

Up to 10,000 Cranes can be seen in spring.

130 breed regularly in the nature reserve. Of these, 50 are confined to wetlands, including all of Sweden's five species of grebe. Marsh Harriers, Great Bitterns and Great Reed Warblers breed in the lake's reeds and reed mosaic. Nearly 10,000 pairs of Black-headed Gull and 40 pairs of Black Tern breed on the lake's floating islands. 100 pairs of Black-necked Grebe and tens of pairs of Horned Grebe breed in connection with the Black-headed Gull colony. Along the lake's cultivated shores and meadows breed, among others, Spotted Crake, Shoveler, Garganey, Gadwall and Ruff. In the lake's bush areas are nests of Penduline Tits. Osprey and White-tailed Eagles also breed in the region.

Thrush Nightingale, River Warbler, Corncrake, Grasshopper Warbler and Rosefinch occur adjacent to the lake. Large numbers of ducks and waders rest in spring and autumn. The lake's characteristic bird is the Crane, which rests there both autumn

JAN JOHANSSON



The lake consists of a mosaic of open water, reed and bush areas, together with shore meadows with a total wetland area of 3300ha. The lake has an average depth of 0.9m.

LARS CARLSSON



A Great Reed Warbler singing just outside Hornborga visitor centre. Inside there is an exhibition about the lake and its ecology and a cafeteria.

GÖSTA ERIKSSON

and spring. The so-called 'Crane dance' is well known, when upto 10,000 Cranes can be seen dancing in the middle of April on the lake's southern shores at Dagsnäs.

The lake is frozen in winter, but still offers a relatively rich bird life with over-wintering birds of prey, such as Golden Eagles, White-tailed Eagles, Rough-legged Buzzards and Goshawks. In the lake's reedbeds Bearded Tits can be seen. Immediately east lies the hill Billingen with undisturbed conifer wood and mires where species such as Pygmy Owl, Tengmalm's Owl, Capercaillie, Black Grouse, Black Woodpecker and Nutcrackers can be seen.

During 1997 the lake and neighbouring meadows were set aside as a nature reserve with an access ban in the period 20/3 – 15/7. In order to make the area accessible to the general public; there are eight visiting points around the lake. Observation towers or other viewpoints make it easy for visitors to observe the rich bird life of the area. At the lake there are two 'Nature Rooms', Hornborga Naturum and Naturum Trandansen, that receive 200,000 annual visitors. Hornborga Naturum lying on the lake's eastern shore, has an exhibition about the lake and its ecology, a cafeteria, and an observation tower with a lift, to en-

LENNART MELLGREN



Horned Grebe (to the left with chicks) and Black-necked Grebe are found in Hornborgasjön.

able access for the disabled. From there, trails lead along the lake shores and to the varying cultural landscape by the lake. Along the trails there are hides and viewpoints. Trandansen visitor centre in the lake's southern part, by the Skara–Falköping road, is the centre for those who want to experience the Cranes, which can be seen 'dancing' on the meadows in mid April.

Overnight accommodation can be found in the towns of Skövde, Skara and Falköping, which lie about 20km from Hornborga visitor centre. There is also accommodation near the lake at Hornborga village (4km), Dagsnäs castle and Västtomten.

INFORMATION

Hornborga visitor centre

Tel. +46 (0)500 49 14 50, fax +46 (0)500 49 13 38

www.hornborga.com

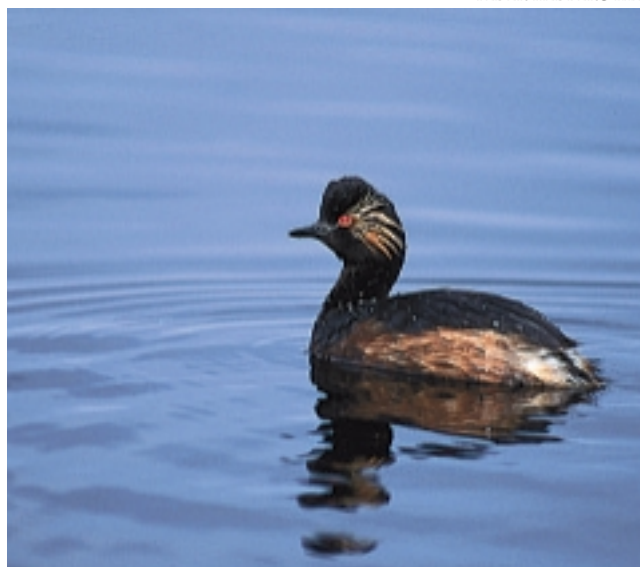
Falköpings Turistbyrå Tel. +46 (0)515 131 95

www.falkoping.se/turism

Skara Turistbyrå Tel. +46 (0)511 325 80

Skövde Turistbyrå Tel. +46 (0)500 44 66 88

PEDER HEDBERG FÄLT





Tåkern

– the huge bird lake

The Tåkern bird lake lies in the Östergötland cultivated flatlands immediately east of the famous rock Omberg and the large lake Vättern. Tåkern is one of Europe's most important breeding and resting places for many species. About 270 species have been seen here and about 120 species breed. The lake and its near surroundings have been established as a nature reserve (54 km²), and it is also a Ramsar-area. Tåkern is really just a hollow in the landscape – ca 44 km² big, but only 0.8m deep. It is surrounded by impressive reedbeds. Altogether it is north Europe's largest reedbed (1500ha), which means that reedbed birds have a substantial presence. There are bird-rich shore meadows around the lake, about 450ha, and marshy or waterlogged shore woods (about 560ha). The shore meadows are kept open thanks to economic support for animal grazing.

Tåkern is attractive for a visit during the breeding and migration seasons. The best times to visit the lake are May/June and September/October. There are four visiting areas at the lake (see map) – Glänås, Väversunda, Svälinge and Hov. There are observatory towers and hides, parking, picnic tables and litter bins. There are boardwalks at Glänås and Svälinge.

May – June

This time of year is peak activity among Tåkern's breeding species. In June many orchids are flowering on the shore meadows.

The best possibilities to see the birds are at Glänås and Svälinge. Boardwalks pass through and within the otherwise inaccessible reedbeds. Marsh Harriers are a common sight: about 45 pairs breed at Tåkern. Great Bitterns (ca 40 males) boom in the reeds and you can sometimes see flying birds in June. Great Reed Warblers (ca 150 pairs) sit tight and sing loudly. It is a good place for Bearded Tits (about 150 pairs) that peer inquisitively from the reeds. Water Rails lurk in the reed edges and grunt.



STEFAN LAGERBLAD

About 40 booming Great Bitterns are heard.

At both Svälinge and Glänås the boardwalks also go out onto the open grazed shore meadows. Here there are breeding Lapwings, Redshanks and Snipe. A few pairs of Oystercatcher and Curlew usually breed on the adjacent fields. Meadow Pipits and Yellow Wagtails also breed on the meadows.

Between the reeds and the meadows there is often open water, the so-called 'blue edge'. In May, Spotted Redshank, Ruff, Green-shank, Wood Sandpiper, among others, rest here.

There are also many species of dabbling duck, such as Gadwall, Shoveler and Garganey. In these areas Black and Common Terns search for small fish. Black Terns have one of their largest inland sites at Tåkern, with 30–40 pairs. Ospreys, among others, breed in the shore woods, and can often be seen hunting over the lake. Hobbies also breed in the area. In the birch and willow parts of the shore woods at Glänås and Svälinge there are also many pairs of Penduline Tits.

September – October

Tåkern is visited by most of the dabbling ducks and waders during autumn. About 2000 Whooper Swans can be found at the lake early in autumn, together with thousands of Pochard and Coots. Tåkern is perhaps best known as one of the most important resting places for Bean Geese. They are most numerous in the middle of October, with about 20,000. Within the flocks there are individual Tundra Bean Geese, Greater and Les-

ser white-fronted Geese, Pink-footed Geese and Barnacle Geese. A few thousand Cranes also normally rest at this time.

Visiting areas at Tåkern

Glänäs in the south. A road leads from the parking down to the observation tower. From there is a magnificent view over the cultural landscape, reeds and a large part of the lake (see photo). There is a small information point here, and guide tours leave at the weekends. From the tower a 2-km long boardwalk leads through the shore woods, out over the open calcareous meadows and through the reedbeds to a smaller observation tower. There are also a couple of hides.

Svälinge in the north. A 1-km long path leads from the parking area to an observation tower. The path goes along the Mjölna river, the lake's outlet. From a small observation tower there is a view over the meadows and water flocks.

Hov in the east. It is about 200m from the parking down to the observation tower. The path and tower are accessible to the disabled. Hov is the number one autumn bird locality at Tåkern. At the end of September and beginning of November it is possible to experience 'the big lift', when thousands of geese fly at dawn every morning towards the surrounding fields to feed. At Hov there is also a good chance to see resting Great Bitterns, waders, ducks and birds of prey.

Väversunda in the west. It is a short walk from the parking down to a platform with disabled access. Väversunda is at its best in May, when many waders display over the meadows, including Redshanks, Lapwings and Snipe. During the light summer evenings Spotted Crake and sometimes the rare Great Snipe are performing. There are many Greylag families on the meadows.

Omberg

Omberg lies west of Tåkern. It is a rock with resplendent deciduous woods and sheer drops down towards Vättern with undisturbed conifer forest. Along the west road there is an amazing view over Vättern, and good chances to see and listen to Omberg's birds. Black Woodpeckers and Nutcrackers are fairly common both spring and autumn. The songs of Red-breasted Flycatchers and Common Rosefinches can be enjoyed in May and June, and with a little luck also Greenish Warbler. At Omberg's visitor centre (Naturum Omberg) you can get more current information about wildlife in the whole Tåkern region.



INFORMATION

Länsstyrelsen (County Administration Board)

Tel. +46 (0)13 19 60 00 www.e.lst.se

Tåkerns Fältstation

Tel. +46 (0)144 321 19 w1.115.telial.com/~u11502098

Naturum Omberg

Tel +46 (0)144 332 45

Vadstena turistbyrå (Tourist information)

Tel. +46 (0)143 315 70

Ödehögs turistbyrå (Tourist information)

Tel. +46 (0)144 399 90

Accommodation and food

Ombergs turisthotell, Tel +46 (0) 144 330 02

Stocklycke vandrarhem, Tel +46 (0) 144 330 44

Klosterhotellet, Vadstena, Tel +46 (0) 143 315 30

Hostels: www.meravsverige.nu

JOHN LARSEN



Thousands of Bearded Tits are breeding in the reedbeds.

LENNART MATHIASSEN/N



Lesser White-fronted Goose.

PER-MAGNUS ÅHRÉN



King Eider is a regular sight along the coast of Halland.



LARS CARLSSON

The crowds of Cranes at Hornborgasjön is a real spectacle.

Travel ideas

Magnificent spectacle and still wilderness

Spring is still young in Southern Sweden as we move from March to April. However, this time is the culmination of the two most significant displays in the bird world: the Eider migration and the Crane dancing. Exactly when the peak of these events will occur varies from year to year, but a tour in early April should be worthwhile. Activity in the woods is also high around this time.

Let us propose an early spring tour of around one week's duration. It starts out at the coast at Getterön. Large numbers of ducks will be resting at the reserve and there will be hunting peregrines. The big attraction is however, the magnificent Eider migration out on Gubbanäsan, Getterön's most westerly point. If you book ahead you can stay at the Varberg's Ornithological

LARS CARLSSON



Capercaillie is found in the woods surrounding Store Mosse.

Society's house (youth hostel standard accommodation) which is within the reserve and has fine views.

It is only 120 kilometres from Getterön with a bustling coast to the desolate area around Store Mosse. Night-time owl calls can be heard in this area. At dawn these sounds are replaced by Black Grouse lekking and the Black Woodpecker's drumming. From the mire extents you can hear Cranes and Whooper Swans. Attractive accommodation is booked through the Tourist Office.

The tour ends around 150 kilometres north at Hornborgasjön. Thousands of Cranes rest in this area and it offers a fantastic spectacle when they pass by morning and evening. There are many cottages and hotels in the area but you must book in good time.



Majestic birdsong and eastern species

SEPPÖ HAAVISTO



Common Rosefinch, one of the eastern species that established populations in Sweden during the 20th century.

May is an intensive month for those that like birds. Birds migrating from the south gradually arrive and migration goes into full swing. Birdsong is profuse and there are many species around, especially towards the end of the month. A trip through the southeastern part of Sweden can be very rewarding at this time of the year. Let us propose a tour that starts at Kristianstad's Vattenrike, continues to Ottenby through southern Öland and ends at the large bird lake Tåkern.

Waders can be seen at the extensive and well-maintained shore meadows at Kristianstad's Vattenrike, as well as elegant Black Terns out over the lakes. On a water edge walk a White Stork and from shrubland you can hear a fine call that penetrates the powerful bird chorus. It is the Penduline Tits' call. Overnight accommodation can be booked through the Tourist Office. Before the tourist season there is much to choose from and the prices are reasonable.

The journey continues to Öland through airy, verdant Blekinge and southeast Småland. In principle southern Öland has much to offer all year round but possibly late spring is the best



time. At this time the migration is intensive and here is also a good chance to see Öland specialities such as Collared Flycatcher, Barred Warbler, Montagu's Harrier and Corncrake.

Late spring on Öland is also, for many bird watchers, closely associated with the sighting of rarities. You can always see eastern and southern species and if the weather is favourable (high pressure in the East and warm southeasterly winds) the trip will be a real success. You must book accommodation in good time – even though there is a lot of accommodation available on Öland, there are also a lot of people who want to visit in late Spring.

From Öland the journey takes you through eastern Småland and southern Östergötland to Tåkern. This large floodplain lake is one of northern Europe's most distinguished bird lakes. From the reeds you can hear the Great Bittern's loud low boom and the Great Reed Warbler's powerful song. An evening trip in the surroundings gives a calling Quail, many Thrush Nightingales and other night singers. At Omberg, the mountain west of Tåkern, there is a well-appointed hostel. There you can enjoy woodland birds e.g. Black Woodpeckers and Nutcrackers.

LENNART MATHIASSEN/N



Wryneck.

HANNU KIUTTU



Collared Flycatcher.

JENS B. BRUUN

*Common Buzzards.*

P-G BENTZ

*Short-toed Eagle.*

Travel ideas

Birds of prey and a taste of Siberia

During autumn there is an extensive migration southwards through southern Sweden. Millions upon millions of migrating birds pass through. For a long time there have been two southerly outposts, Falsterbo in the Southwest and Ottenby in the Southeast, that birdwatchers have very much at heart. A trip that combines both these places can be very rewarding.

Let us start at Falsterbo. In principle all birds that go through southern Sweden pass here, but it is perhaps the birds of prey migration that attracts most attention. From the end of August to the beginning of November, days with good conditions (high pressure) offer substantial flocks of migrating birds of prey.

A visit as September becomes October will be dominated by Sparrowhawks and Common Buzzards, and even Red Kites, Osprey and many others come in good numbers. The icing on the cake are the eagles. At no other place in Scandinavia do you have such a good chance to see e.g. Lesser-spotted Eagle as at Falsterbo.

In Falsterbo there are many options for accommodation. If you would like to stay at the heart of the action, i.e. the Falsterbo Bird Observatory, you must book in good time.

After a few days at Falsterbo the journey takes you eastwards to Öland. Even there pass scores of migrating birds, but is rather water birds from the northern tundra areas and passerines from the Siberian taiga that are an additional temptation to birdwatchers.

Seabird migration can be very intensive with large numbers

of Common Eiders, Brent Geese and Barnacle Geese. Sometimes the charismatic Red-breasted Goose hides itself away in the geese flocks.

Many passerines rest in shrubs and thicket. Time and again there is an alert that some one has found a Siberian rarity and you have a good chance to enjoy one of these jewels. If you don't want to jostle with other birdwatchers you could walk along the desolate East Coast of Öland and enjoy the birdlife there instead. You may, perhaps, suddenly find a Desert Warbler among the herbs.

Accommodation must be booked in good time even though there are many alternatives.



JOAKIM JOHANSSON

*Steller's Eiders at Ottenby in october.*

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Useful phonenumber and web-sites for those who goes birding in Southern Sweden

Telephone information (updated daily)

The information is given in swedish. If you are calling from
the British Isles, add +46 and exclude the first number. Club
300 is not possible to call from abroad.

	Listen	Report
Scania	040 41 12 14	040 41 09 29
Halland, south	035 364 27	035 364 97
Halland, middle	0346 812 14	0346 812 30
West Coast	031 42 68 00	031 49 22 19
Blekinge	0457 300 70	
Småland, south	0470 473 46	0470 487 46
Småland, northeast	0495 141 31	
Öland	0485 779 11	0485 779 22
Ottenby	0480 173 33	
Ottenby Bird Observ.	0485 611 118	
Gotland	0498 21 04 42	0498 21 05 42
Västergötland, south	0320 700 96	
Västergötland	0500 450 450	0500 450 451
Östergötland	013 13 39 86	
Club 300 (costs 4:55 per minute)	071 26 83 00	020 76 80 30

Web-sites with bird reports

On the following web-sites you can find information about
bird observations. The information is given in swedish but
normally the scientific names of the birds are included.

"Svalan", the Swedish Ornithological Society
<http://svalan.environ.se/rappsys/index/htm>

Club 300 (rarities)
www.club300.se

Kustobsar (the west coast)
www.kustobsar.st

Skånes Ornitologiska Förening (Scania)
www.skof.se/obs

Getterön
www.getteron.com

Öland
www.oof.nu



White-tailed Eagle.

Public Access in Sweden

In Sweden, the Right of Public Access allows you to roam about freely or to go camping in the countryside. You are entitled to enjoy the fragrance of the flowercovered meadows, the singing birds and the peaceful silence of the deep forest. But please don't disturb and don't destroy.

Needless to say, you are not permitted to take any species of bird's eggs. Avoid disturbing nests and young animals.

If you keep the following rules in mind you will be sure of keeping on the right side of Swedish laws and customs.

Respect peoples privacy!

You are perfectly entitled to walk, jog, cycle, ride or ski across other people's land – provided you do not cause any damage to crops, forest plantations or fences. But you are not entitled to cross or stay on a private plot without permission – that would be a violation of privacy.

The plot, which is not always hedged or fenced in, is the area closest to a dwelling house. The people who live there are entitled to do so in peace. This, after all, is their private area.

Camping

You are allowed to pitch your tent for a day or two on land which is not used for farming, and which is not close to a dwelling. The closer to houses you wish to camp, the more likely you are to cause a disturbance, and the greater the need to ask the landowner for permission. How long you can keep your tent pitched in one and the same place depends on the circumstances.

Enjoy yourselves in the Swedish countryside!

WISP

Wetlands in Spatial Planning

is an EU founded project within the Interreg IIC, North Sea Region Programme. One of the project's objectives is to stimulate sustainable ecotourism as means of promoting wetlands as a natural resource, an educational asset and a local source of income and employment. The project focuses on a number of wetlands which have a rich bird life.

Interconnected wetlands bordering the North Sea are of crucial importance to a large number of bird species. Being part of the North-East Atlantic Flyway, they are used by vast numbers of waders and waterfowl breeding in the Arctic and wintering in Europe or Africa. En route, the birds are in need of areas for resting and feeding to build up energy for further travel.

Sustainable development of these wetlands might be the key to their continued survival and importance, as the majority are located in densely populated areas and are under several forms of pressure. The development of locally founded ecotourism is a way to increase society's consciousness as a whole to the values of these wetlands, aiming to aid conserving them for future generations as well. By allowing a certain amount of carefully planned activities, both the birds and their habitat will benefit from increased interest and awareness.



INTERREG IIC
North Sea Region

Project
part-financed by
the European Union

