

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Sweden

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Name of wetland: Store Mosse and Kävsjön

Date of Ramsar designation: 5 December 1974

Geographical coordinates: 57°18'N 13°57'E

General location: located about 70 km south of Sönköping, in the County of Sönköping, southern Sweden.

Area: 7,580 ha

Wetland type: Q U X S

Altitude: average of 172 m above sea level.

Overview: The area is important for its diverse bird community, having a remarkable mix of northern and southern bird species. The site is Sweden's most extensive mire complex outside Norrland, where the mire area makes up a breeding ground for Sweden's possibly largest population of crane.

Physical features: The site comprises a mosaic of raised bog, fen and open water. The fens are partly natural but also formed by artificial lowering of the lakes in the 1840s and 1870s. Now only Kävsjön and Kalvasjön and Horssjön only have open water at high-water periods. There are a number of smaller lagoons within the mires. Soil is mainly peat, sand and moraine. Store Mosse is a raised bog of western type.

Ecological features: The site contains typical mire vegetation interspersed with patches of *Pinus sylvestris* and treeless areas of dwarf scrubs. The flora includes a number of orchidaceae. Big parts of the lakes are covered with quagmires of *Equisetum* sp. and *Cares rostrata*. Characteristic for the rest is *Scirpus lacustris*. The lakes are oligotrophic.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) site: State owned.

b) surrounding area: no information supplied.

Conservation measures taken: Listed as site of national importance to nature conservation. The area has been protected as a Nature Reserve since 1971 and is now a national park (established 6 May 1982). Access is restricted to parts of the

park during the bird breeding season. Restoration measures including rotary cultivation of some areas have been undertaken locally. In areas where grazing has been resumed the number of waders and *Motacilla flava* have increased.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: Increased grazing pressure on shore meadows or resumed hay cutting is still to be undertaken.

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) site: Nature conservation

b) surroundings/catchment: The surroundings consist of extensive woods and some small patches of arable land. The woods are used for forestry.

Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects

a) at the site: There has been invasion by scrub in areas where hay is no longer cut, or where cattle no longer graze. This has decreased the value of these areas for bird life.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: no information supplied.

Hydrological and physical values: no information supplied.

Social and cultural values: no information supplied.

Noteworthy fauna: Figures refer to 1988. Breeding: *Grus grus* (7-10 pairs). *Gavia stellata*, *G. arctica*, *Poiciceps auritus*, *P. grisegena*, *Anas crecca* (10-17), *A. acuta*, *A. penelope*, *A. Clypeata*, *A. querquedula*, *Aythya ferina*, *Fulica atra*, *Rallus aquaticus*, *Porzana porzana*, *Tringa totanus* (2-5). *T. glareola* (5-9), *Pluvialis apricaria*, *Caliaris alpina*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Asio flammens*, *Numerius arquata*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Aythya fuligula*, *Bucephala clangula*. Remarkable is the regular annual breeding of *Lymnocyptes minimus* and *Cygnus cygnus*, both of which occur mainly in northernmost Sweden. Resting: *Cygnus cygnus*, *Anser fabalis*. Seen during winter: *Haliaeetus albicilla*.

Noteworthy flora: *Epipactis palustris*, *Gymnadenia conopsea* and *Dactylorhiza incarnata* are fairly rare orchids growing in the area.

The peat-bog vegetation is distinctive but lacks a wide variety of species. Common species are: *Calluvia vulgaris*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Erica tetralix*, *Betula nana* (an Ice Age relic), *Andromeda polifolia*, *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, *Carex rostrata*, *C. lasiocarpa*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Drosera* spp. *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Parnassia palustris* and *Potentilla erecta*.

Current scientific research and facilities: Hydrological, botanical, limnological and ornithological investigations have been undertaken as part of a project to restore some swamp and peatland which has been invaded by scrub.

Current conservation education: The site has a large observation tower. There are information leaflets available on the National Park.

Current recreation and tourism: no information supplied.

Management authority: The manager of the National Park is the Forest service.

Jurisdiction: Territorial and functional: County Administration of Jönköping.

Bibliographical references:

- Grimmet, R.F.A & Jones, T.A. (1989) Important bird areas of Europe. ICBP.
- Svenska våtmarker av internationell betydelse (1989). Swedish EPA Information. (English summary).
- IUCN (1977). World Directory of national Parks and other Protected Areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.
- Several scientific reports about the birdlife and vegetation in Lake Kävsjön.

Reasons for inclusion: 1a, 2b, 3b

Map of site: enclosed.