

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Sweden

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Name of wetland: Tåkern

Date of Ramsar designation: 5 December 1974

Geographical coordinates: 58°21'N 14°49'E

General location: Located about 40 km west of Linköping in the county of Östergötland.

Area: 5,650 ha

Wetland type: Q S

Altitude: Average of 95 m

Overview: Tåkern is one of the greatest bird-lakes in northern Europe. The lake is shallow and eutrophic and it is situated in an agricultural plains area. The site is important for birds during the whole year.

Physical features: Lake Tåkern lies east of lake Vättern in a region dominated by cambrio-silurian bedrock and cultivated clay plains. The lake is very eutrophic and shallow with an average depth of 0.8 m. In the last century the water level was permanently lowered.

Ecological features: Phragmites cover about one fourth of the lake's area. The shallows contain *Myriophyllum*, *Chara*, *Potamogeton* and *Ranunculus*. The plains around the lake are cultivated.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) site: private ownership

b) surrounding area: private ownership

Conservation measures taken: Listed as a site of national importance to nature conservation. Most of the designated site (5,420 ha) is included in a Nature Reserve named Tåkern. The reserve was established 13 June 1975 and has a management plan since 1990. Access is restricted to most of the reserve. Practices include experimental removal of vegetation along the shores by means of amphibious vehicles.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: Future

plans include increased grazing along the shore-line and development of a system of board-walks for visitors.

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) site: Nature conservation; Livestock grazing (cattle)

b) surroundings/catchment: These surrounding extensive areas are used for agriculture. Peat-cutting is performed in the south-west.

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

a) at the site: Certain bird species have declined in number. The lake is regulated in a way that is not favouring wildlife. Some modifications in the water regime, however, have been achieved during recent years.

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

Hydrological and physical values: no information supplied.

Social and cultural values: Fishing and duck hunting are practised within the site.

Noteworthy fauna: Figures refer to 1988. Breeding: The populations of *Circus aeruginosus* (40 pairs), *Botaurus stellaris* (30-40 males), *Panurus biarmicus* (some thousand) and *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (100 singing males) are probably the largest in Sweden. *Podiceps cristatus*, *P. grisegena* (>100), *P. auritus*, *P. nigricollis*, *Tachybaptus nigricollis*, *Anas strepera* (10-20), *A. clypeata* (20-30), *A. acuta* (about 5), *A. querquedula* (20-30), *Calidris alpina* (a few), *Philomachus pugnax*, *Tringa totanus*, *Haematopus ostragalus*, Sweden's largest population of *Larus ridibundus*. A colony of *Chlidonias niger* (30-40) established in 1970 has become one of Sweden's largest.

Resting: Most of Sweden's waders and a large number of duck and geese including *Anas platyrhynchos*, *A. crecca*, *A. penelope* (up to 1000 birds), *Mergus merganser* and all European species of geese (especially *Anser fabalis* with maximum 50,000 pairs).

Summering and moulting: *Cygnus olor* (2000-3000), *Anser anser*, ducks. *Haliaeetus albicilla* (regularly) out of breeding season.

Noteworthy flora: no information supplied.

Current scientific research and facilities: some limnological-botanical studies have been carried out, and a field station has been in operation for some years and forms the basis for ornithological work.

Current conservation education: There are several observation towers or hides.

Current recreation and tourism: no information supplied.

Management authority: the manager of the nature reserve is the County Forestry Board.

Jurisdiction: Territorial and functional: the County Administration of Östergötland.

Bibliographical references:

- Grimmett, R.F.A. & Jones, T.A. (1989). Important Bird Areas of Europe. ICBP.
- Svenska våtmarker av internationell betydelse (1989). Swedish EPA information. (English summary).
- Duffey, E. (1982). National Parks and Reserves of Western Europe, Macdonald and Co. London.
- Several scientific reports on bird fauna and vegetation.
- Management plan for Tåkern Nature Reserve.

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

Map of site: enclosed