

## INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

**Country:** Sweden

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**Name of wetland:** Kvismaren

**Date of Ramsar designation:** 5 December 1974

**Geographical coordinates:** 59°10'N 15°23'E

**General location:** About 14 km west of Stockholm, in the county of Örebro.

**Area:** 780 ha

**Wetland type:** M Q S G

**Altitude:** average of 25 m above sea level.

**Overview:** The former two lakes of Kvismaren have been lowered and replaced by extensive vegetation. Restoration measures are now being carried out. Kvismaren is important for the avifauna throughout the year and most of the site is therefore protected as a nature reserve.

**Physical features:** Kvismaren valley is a mainly fertile and rather flat agricultural landscape. Formerly there were two lakes here but following a comprehensive lowering of the water level during the 1880s the lakes dried out completely. The hydrology of the area is subject to strict control by canals and embankments to protect the surrounding arable land. However, a small area known as Birdlake has been dyked so that the water level can be raised. The bedrock is mainly of granite with veins of migmatite and gneiss-granite. There is also leptite and leptite gneiss in the area.

**Ecological features:** The former lakes have been replaced by extensive stretches of *Phragmites* interspersed with *Salix* thickets and surrounded by marshy meadows, low-lying pasture, and arable land with many dense woods along the shores.

### **Land tenure/ownership of**

**a) site:** Most is privately owned. A smaller part belongs to the state.

**b) surrounding area:** Privately owned.

**Conservation measures taken:** Listed as site of national importance to nature conservation. The site includes the Nature

Reserve Kvismaren (720 ha, established 21 April 1978). A management plan exists for the reserve. Restoration measures carried out since 1980 have included the burning of reed and scrub, rotary cultivation, and raising of the water level in an area of 85 ha. Large scale restoration measures will continue.

**Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:** Plans for additional restoration methods are available but have so far not yet been carried out.

**Current land use: principal human activities in**

**a) site:** Nature conservation; livestock grazing.

**b) surroundings/catchment:** Principal activities are agriculture at the vast arable lands and forestry at the wooded areas.

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

**a) at the site:** Potential threats are increased drainage and cultivation, and decreased grazing. *Circus cyaneus*, *Limosa limosa*, *Asio flammeus* and *A. otus* used to breed regularly in the 1950's - early 1960's but are now rarely seen in the region.

**b) in the surroundings/catchment:** A limited use of fertilizers at the surrounding agricultures would be desirable to prevent overgrowth.

**Hydrological and physical values:** It is desirable to replace the present rapid passage of water in canals with a slow passage, made possible through local destruction of the embankments.

**Social and cultural values:** no information supplied.

**Noteworthy fauna:** Breeding: *Circus aeruginosus* (5-7 pairs), *Botaurus stellaris* (1-2 birds), *Porzana porzana*, *Anas strepera* (15-20 pairs), *A. querquedula* (1-3 pairs), *A. clypeata* (5-10), *Podiceps nigricollis* (1-4), *P. cristatus*, *P. grisigena* (3-5), *P. auritus* (20), *Panurus biarmicus* (sporadically), *Remiz pendulinus* (sporadically), *Anser anser* (a few), *Tachybaptus ruficollis* (2-5), *Limosa limosa* (1-3), *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (25), *Locustella naevia* (about 50 singing).

Resting: waders, ducks (2000-4000 ducks, mainly *Anas platyrhynchos* rest in autumn), *Anser fabalis* (spring 5000-8000, autumn 10,000-15,000).

Summer visitors: *Cotumix cotumix*, *Crex crex*, *Porzana parva*, *Larus minutus*, *Chlidonias niger*, *Oriolus oriolus*, *Locustella fluviatilis*, *Astotlammeus*, *A. otus*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Limosa limosa*, *Valco vesertinus*.

Wintering: *Aquila chrysaetos* (2-4 birds).

**Noteworthy flora:** no information supplied.

**Current scientific research and facilities:** Kvismaren Bird Station has been carrying out extensive research in the area since 1960. Work has concentrated on biocide problems, population studies and, since the 1970's, on the development of various methods to control vegetation.

**Current conservation education:** There is an observation tower

and a hide. Guiding is offered to school classes.

**Current recreation and tourism:** The rich bird fauna attracts a large number of visitors to the area.

**Management authority:** The manager of Kvismaren N.R. is the County Folrestry Board.

**Jurisdiction:** Territorial and functional: County Administration of Örebro.

**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).
- Management plans for Kvismaren Nature Reserve (1980, 1983).
- Sondell, J. *et al.* (1985). Kvismaren och fåglarna. Föreningen Kvismaren Fågelstation, Örebro. (in Swedish).

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

**Map of site:** enclosed