

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Sweden

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Name and address of compiler: Tiina Laantee, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, 17185 Solna, Sweden
Tel: +46 8 7991000
Fax: +46 8 291106

Name of wetland: Hjälstaviken

Date of Ramsar designation: 5 December 1974

Geographical coordinates: 59°40'N 17°23'E

General location: Located 20 km south of the town of Uppsala and 17 km east of the town of Enköping in the county of Uppsala.

Area: 770 ha

Wetland type: Q S

Altitude: average 15 m above sea level.

Overview: Hjälstaviken is protected as a Nature Reserve concerning its qualities for the avifauna. The shallow lake is situated in an arable area.

Physical features: Lake Hjälstaviken is a shallow almost completely enclosed bay of Lake Mälaren. The average lake depth is 1 m, and it is characterized by clear water and a very flocculant sediment. Concerning the bedrock the site is divided into two halves. The northern consists of plagioclase porphyrite and the southern of gneissose meta-arenite.

Ecological features: Lake Hjälstaviken is surrounded by tussochy meadows that merge into drier pasture and fields. The site includes two patches of deciduous trees overlooking the bay, and to the east a conifer-covered hill with exposed rocks. Only 30 ha of the lake area is open water, with the remainder invaded by *Phragmites*, *Scirpus* and *Typha*. The *Phragmites* belts are 200-400 m wide. Submerged vegetation is missing.

Land tenure/ownership of

- a) **site:** ownership is part private and part state.
- b) **surrounding area:** no information supplied.

Conservation measures taken: Listed as a site of national importance for nature conservation. The area was established as a Nature Reserve in 1948, March 13. Public access is restricted to nature trails. A management plan has been approved for this area. Management and limited restoration measures have been

carried out in the lake (dredging, reed-cutting, rotary cultivation) and some of the surrounding meadows.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: no information supplied.

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) site: Nature conservation; grazing (cattle, horses); agriculture.

b) surroundings/catchment: The surrounding land is mainly used for agriculture.

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

a) at the site: Encroachment by marginal vegetation and loss of submerged and floating macrophytes has adversely affected the value of the area for birdlife. As a result, the number of ducks using the site has declined in recent years. A further potential problem is the use of fertilizers in surrounding farmland.

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

Hydrological and physical values: no information supplied.

Social and cultural values: no information supplied.

Noteworthy fauna: About 70-80 bird species nest in the area out of which 20 are linked to wetlands. Figures refer to 1988.

Breeding: *Botaurus stellaris* (3-5 pairs), *Circus aeruginosus* (3-5), *Falco subbuteo*, *Anas crecca* (a few), *A. strepera*, *A. querquedula* (a few), *A. clypeata* (a few), *Aythya ferina*, *A. fuligula*, *Rallus aquaticus* (up to some 100), *Locustella naevia*, *Porzana porzana* (1-3), *Gallinago gallinago* (50-100), *Motacilla flavia* (75-100).

Regular sightings of: *Podiceps auritus*, *Porzana parva*, *Carpodacus erythrinus*, *Pandion haliaetus* and *Crex crex*.

Resting during migration: *Gallinago media* (1-8 birds), *Lymnocyptes minimus*, *Limosa limosa*, *Grus grus*, *Anser fabalis* (500-800), *A. albifrons* (some 10), *Branta canadensis*, *Mergus merganser*, *Tringa nebularia*, *Anas crecca*, *A. penelope*.

Wintering: *Aquila chysaetos*, *Buteo lagopus*, *Accipiter gentilis*, *Haliaetus albicilla*.

Noteworthy flora: no information supplied.

Current scientific research and facilities: Research includes studies in ornithology, hydrology, vegetation and the potential effects of fertilizer Contamination from surrounding fields.

Current conservation education: no information supplied.

Current recreation and tourism: This is one of Sweden's most well-known bird reserves. During winter the site harbours several species of raptors which attracts many visitors.

Management authority: The manager of Hjällstaviken Nature Reserve is a private company.

Jurisdiction: Territorial and functional: County Administration of Uppsala.

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 plan for Hjällstaviken Nature Reserve (1982).

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

Map of site: enclosed.