

Dark bog water

When the day declines and the sun is low, the stagnant bog water gets its mythical, dark colour. The glittering, dark water gives me the feeling of the bottomless deep. Throughout my childhood I was warned not to get too close to these ponds and ditches in the bog.

As child I worked for a farmer for a while. One of my duties was to bicycle out into the bog to count the cattle on the reclaimed fields on the bog. When I count the cattle, I was constantly worried that an animal would be missing. It often happened that a horse or heifer fell into the bottomless, muddy ditches around the fields.

That July day the bog is silent. The weather is very unstable and some dark clouds portend rain showers. The

sunlight is only sporadic in the landscape. The bog, Lille Vildmose, have as the other Danish bogs been heavily exploited for peat-digging and production of sphagnum and also for cultivation. When they were digging peat and produces sphagnum, miles of peat banks were created.

After these activities stopped and the land-draining was terminated, these excavations in the peat bog now appear as large shallow lakes. The bog has once again become a paradise for birds, amphibians and other animals.

This late afternoon the wildlife has settled down. Maybe the animals have the same feeling as I: The glittering dark bog water will soon be broken by a heavy rain shower?



Lille vildmose, July 2012