

SVANESANG SWAN SONG

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Svanesang

Vi hører dem ofte, før vi får øje på dem. De flyver højt på himlen hen over byen. Næsten på klokkeslæt flyver de ud til enge og marker om morgenen for at fouragere. Om aftenen flyver de tilbage til deres opholdssteder ude i den store mose.

Det er den overvintrende sangsvane, der synger deroppe højt på himlen. Denne svanesang er fra tidernes morgen blevet karakteriseret som behagelig, men også vemodig og klagende.

Sangsvanens melankolske sang er smuk, og jeg finder den ligefrem livsbekræftende. Men i litteraturen og folkløren er den smukke sang forbundet med død. Begrebet 'svanesang' er blevet pseudonym med menneskets sidste præstation inden døden.

Hidtil har sangsvanen kun været trækfugl i Danmark, men nogle få par har nu valgt at yngle på afsides steder her i landet. I oktober

måned kommer trækfuglene fra nord. Nogle har fløjet hele vejen fra det nordligste Sibirien for at overvintre her i det mildere klima. Nogle svaner har gjort rejsen gennem flere år, men de bringer også deres seneste kuld af gråfarvede unger med sig.

Ornitologerne har opgjort, at der nu overvintrer mere end tyve tusinde sangsvaner her i landet, og antallet er for øjeblikket stigen- de. Svanerne finder deres føde i lavvandede havområder, i søer og på markerne, hvor de æder resterne fra kartoffel og roemarker, men også den spirende hvede og raps.

De store, hvide fugle udgør et imponerende syn, når de står samlet i flok på de våde marker, eller når de i små flokke flyver forbi højt over vores byer.

Swan song

We often hear them before we catch of them. They fly high in the sky over the town. Almost on time, they fly to the meadows and fields in the morning to forage. In the evening, they fly back to their habitats in the great bog.

It is the overwintering whooper swan that sings loud up there in the sky. From time immemorial, this swan song has been characterized as pleasant, but also daring and plaintive.

The melancholic song of the whooper swan is beautiful, and I find it life-affirming. But in the literature and the folklore, the beautiful song is associated with the death. The term 'swan song' has been pseudonym with the last piece of work of a person before death.

So far, in Denmark the whooper swan has only been a migratory bird, but a few couples have now chosen to breed in remote places in the country. In the Month of October,

the migratory birds arrive from the north. Some have flown all the way from the northernmost Siberia for overwintering here in the milder climate. Some swans have made the journey for several years, but together with the old swans are their latest brood of grey-coloured cygnets.

The ornithologists have estimated that more than twenty thousand whooper swans are overwintering in Denmark, and the number is currently on the rise. The swans find their food in shallow sea areas, in lakes and in the fields, where they eat the remnants of potato and beet, but also the sprouted wheat and oilseed rape.

The large white birds are an impressive sight when they are gathered in the wet fields or when they in small flocks in high altitude fly above our towns.



Reykjavik, Iceland, maj 2006

Reykjavik, Iceland, May 2006



Reykjavik, Iceland, maj 2006

Reykjavik, Iceland, May 2006



Himmerland, januar 2013

Himmerland, January 2013



Himmerland, december 2007

Himmerland, December 2007



Himmerland, december 2010

Himmerland, December 2010



Himmerland, december 2013

Himmerland, December 2013



Himmerland, december 2017

Himmerland, December 2017



Himmerland, december 2017

Himmerland, December 2017



Himmerland, november 2018

Himmerland, November 2018



Himmerland, december 2014

Himmerland, December 2014



Himmerland, december 2016

Himmerland, December 2016



Himmerland, december 2016

Himmerland, December 2016



Reykjavik, Iceland, maj 2006

Reykjavik, Iceland, May 2006



Reykjavik, Iceland, maj 2006

Reykjavik, Iceland, May 2006

KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Svanesang
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: Swan song
By Keld Jensen*

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