

SKARVKOLONIEN PÅ HØJMOSEN
THE COLONY OF CORMORANTS ON
THE RAISED BOG

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Skarvkolonien på højmosen

Vi besøger skarvkolonien en solrig, blæsende juli dag. Vi skal ud i et område, hvor der normalt ikke er adgang. Vi har fået en specialtilladelse til at vandre herude på den store mose.

Mosens flade strækker sig helt ud til horisonten. Det er mosegrund. Højmose. Den karakteristiske vegetation med tuer omgivet af sumpet mosegrund gør det meget vanskeligt at komme frem.

Vi bruger meget tid til at bevæge os blot nogle få meter. Til tider får vi fornemmelsen af, at vores færd er håbløs. Det hele virker så uoverskueligt. Hele tiden er vi ved at snuble. Stakåndet og våde af sved forsøger vi hele tiden at få fodfæste og undgå at synke ned i det dybe dynd af vådt spagnum mellem tuerne.

Omkring os kredser der myg og andre insekter i hobetal. Deres flyvning virker hasarderet: Ind i øjet, ind i øret, ind i munden. Vi spytter det ene kræ ud efter den anden. Vi sluger nok også en del.

Besværet er det hele værd. Så snart vi kommer tæt på skarvkolonien i birketræerne, får vi fornemmelsen af at være omgivet af larmende fugle til alle sider. I næsten hvert eneste træ er der en eller flere reder. Mange af rederne er fortsat beboet af en skarvunge, der med korte mellemrum får besøg af sine forældre.

Rederne er placeret i træerne, der omkranser søen i mosen. Alle træerne har taget voldsomt skade af de sorte fugles ekskrementer. Mange af de træer, hvor der er reder, er for længst afgået ved døden.

Forældrene fodrer den store unge med fisk fra den nærtliggende sø. Nogle gange henter de føden helt ude i havet øst for mosen.

De bringer også vand med til ungen, og med mellemrum bliver de siddende tæt op af ungen på de svajende grene. På denne måde skygger de for deres unge, der her i toppen af de nøgne træer er fuldstændigt eksponeret for solens stråler.

The colony of cormorants on the raised bog

We visit the colony of cormorants a sunny, windy July day. We are entering an area where we normally have no access. We have got a special admission to enter the terrain on this part of the big bog.

The expanse of the bog goes far to the horizon. This is the boggy ground. Raised bog. The characteristic vegetation with tufts surrounded by the swamp boggy ground makes it very difficult to get on.

We spend a lot of time to move just a few meters. Sometimes we get the feeling that our quest is hopeless. It all seems so unpredictable. All along we are stumbling. Breathless and sweaty, we constantly try to get a foothold and avoid sinking into the deep mud of wet sphagnum between the tufts.

Around us, there are lots of mosquitoes and other insects. Their flight seems hazarded: into the eye, into the ear, into the mouth. We must spit out the small insects one creature after another. We probably swallow a lot too.

Our effort is everything worthwhile. As soon as we get close to the colony of the cormorants in the birch trees, we get the feeling of being surrounded by noisy birds for all sides. In almost every tree there are one or more nests. Many of the nests are still inhabited by a young bird which, at short intervals, are visited by its parents.

The nests are located in the trees that surround the lake in the bog. All the trees have been severely damaged by the excrement of the black birds. Many of the trees, in which there are nests, have long since died.

The parents feed the large young bird with fish from the nearby lake. Sometimes they get the food out in the sea east of the bog.

They also bring water to the young bird, and at intervals they are seated close to the young bird in the bending branches. In this way they shade their nestling, which at the top of the naked trees are completely exposed to the rays of the sun.



London, England, august 2018

London, England, August 2018



Egense, Himmerland, oktober 2019

The village Egense, Himmerland, October 2019



Sövdesjön, Skåne, Sverige, juli 2006

The lake Sövdesjön, Scania, Sweden, July 2006



Lille Vildmose, Himmerland, juli 2007

The bog Lille Vildmose, Himmerland, July 2007



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KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Skarvkolonien på højmosen
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: The colony of cormorants on the raised bog
By Keld Jensen*

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