



Ottenby Nature Reserve is located on the southern cape of the island of Öland. Thousands of migrating birds rest here in spring and autumn on their way north or south, and these large gatherings make Ottenby Nature Reserve one of Sweden's top bird areas. Within the reserve there are also a great number of nesting bird species, some of which are rare in the rest of the country, e.g. collared flycatcher, golden oriole and southern dunlin.

The area is part of the World Heritage site Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland, and is strongly characterised by human land use over thousands of years. The large number of grazing animals on the Schäferiångarna meadows and the land along the lighthouse road, together with hay-making, are prerequisites for maintaining the open character of the landscape and biological diversity. For centuries, bird life and plants have adapted to living conditions in the open landscape and would disappear if the land became overgrown. The reserve consists of the areas: Ottenby lund, Schäferiångarna and Västra mark, each with a character of its own.

Ottenby lund

Ottenby lund (Ottenby Grove) is today a mixed deciduous woodland, dominated by oak and birch. The area forms the largest contiguous deciduous forest on southern Öland. Ottenby lund is a royal hunting ground with winding hay meadows, wooded patches of old oaks and wet areas. Some of the remaining hay fields in the grove are still cut. Artificial fertilisers were used on practically all meadows during the 1960s, and the flora is now fairly depleted. One exception is the small north-eastern Kyrkängen meadow, which escaped artificial manuring. Here you can still find species favoured by hay-making such as heath spotted orchid, spotted dandelion, viper's-grass and common milkwort growing in profusion. Meadowland farming ended after World War II and the grove started to overgrow. Through repeated thinning out, the forest has become more open and now Ottenby lund

road, where Västra mark turns into a shore meadow, you find e.g. ruddy turnstone, oystercatcher, northern lapwing, little tern and arctic tern.

Ancient remains

The Ottenby area is very rich in ancient remains – the oldest dating back to the Stone Age. Just south of the royal manor Ottenby kungsgård, a Stone Age settlement has been found. Ancient remains such as stone stripes and building foundations from the Iron Age are also common in the area. At Djupvik, just north of Ottenby kungsgård, is one of Öland's largest Iron Age grave fields. It consists of 275 graves, with a time difference of 500 years between the oldest graves closest to Ottenby kungsgård and the youngest graves in the north. Just west of the Södra lund parking area are Kungsstenarna (King's Stones), two standing stones marking a grave field. By the coast is a conical limestone beacon – Orminge rör. During the Middle Ages, the southern cape of Öland was an important trading place. At Kyrkohamn you find traces of around one hundred house foundations and the remains of Sankt Johannes (Saint John's) chapel, bearing witness to the once vital fishing village located here in medieval times. It is believed that the fishing era on the southern cape of the island lasted for 500 years.

The lighthouse Långe Jan on the southern cape of Öland was built between 1784 and 1785, and some of the building material was taken from the then derelict Sankt Johannes chapel. Jan is a short form of Johannes, and in this way the name of the chapel was passed on to the lighthouse. Långe Jan was first lit on 1 November 1785. The lighthouse is 40 metres tall



Kungsstenarna

is grazed by fallow deer as well as cattle. The grove contains a number of coarse old oaks. The oldest have a girth exceeding 400 centimetres and are more than 450 years old. The ancient trees and the moist climate in the grove are of great importance for the rich and unique flora of lichens. The great number of old trees and the dead wood in the grove also contribute to a rich insect fauna with several rare species such as lesser stag beetle, noble chafer and *Dorcatoma substriata* beetle. The rare union rustic moth prefers the open deciduous woodland.

In May, visitors to Ottenby lund are met by an amazing bird chorus from chaffinch, willow warbler, wood warbler, icterine warbler, garden warbler, blackcap and several species of flycatcher. In early summer, it's also possible to hear the strong fluting from golden oriole. Little grebe and moorhen nest in Lake Lundsjön in the southern part of the grove. In the landscape around Kyrkängen meadow to the north, barred warbler and corn crane can be heard in May. Autumn is a favourable time to watch out for eastern bird species, e.g. palla's warbler, which rest in the grove on their way south.

The royal fallow deer in the grove are descendants of the deer that King Johan III introduced to Ottenby lund in 1569, when all of Öland was proclaimed a royal hunting ground. The winter population of fallow deer should be kept to 150 to 200 animals, varying from year to year.

Schäferiångarna

Winter fodder for the animals in Ottenby was for a long time gathered from a very large meadow, Skogsgärdet, which included all of today's Schäferiångarna meadows,



Golden oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)



Southern dunlin (*Calidris alpina ssp. schinzii*)



Pied avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

the southern part of the grove Ottenby lund and part of the present day Västra mark pasture. Grazing animals were kept away until the hay had been cut and gathered in, and then let into Skogsgärdet for after-grazing. Traditional meadow management was carried out on the northern parts of Schäferiångarna until the early 1940s. Thereafter, the areas used for hay started to diminish and in the 1960s, hay-making stopped altogether. Schäferiångarna were instead used for grazing from early summer until late autumn. In 1988, hay-making and after-grazing were resumed on a small area in the northernmost parts of Schäferiångarna, and today an area of 55 hectares north of the Ångsvaktarstigen trail is cut and grazed. The hay meadow is highly species-rich and an area of 1 square metre can contain up to 40 species of herbs and grasses. Here you find species dependent on hay-making, such as the eyebright variety *tenuis* (*Brenner*) *Jalas* and grass-of-Parnassus. The meadows are highly important for birds, both as nesting and resting places. Schäferiångarna today contain some of Sweden's largest and most species-rich populations of nesting waders, e.g. curlew, black-tailed godwit, common redshank and southern dunlin. The sandbank east of the Schäferiångarna meadows has one of the largest populations of pied avocet in Sweden. In late summer and autumn, the meadows change from nesting places to resting places – the first to arrive are the south-migrating arctic waders and later in autumn the arctic geese appear. On days with the "right" conditions, it's possible to see flocks of several thousand birds.

The name Schäferiångarna was first mentioned in Carl Linnaeus' travel



Eyebright (*Euphrasia stricta var. tenuis*)

to Öland in 1741. On earlier maps this part of Skogsgärdet was referred to as Skogsgårdsängen.

Västra mark and Hingsthagen

These westerly outfields towards Kalmarsund were called Grytehagen on old maps. Today, the area is divided into two pastures – Västra mark and Hingsthagen. Most of the westerly grassland and areas of shrubby cinquefoil are very old outfields that have been grazed continuously by cattle, sheep and horses. Large parts of Västra mark and Hingsthagen consist of dry grassland with soft-brome, sheep's-fescue and ribwort plantain as some of the dominant species. The grass *Sesleria uliginosa* and shrubby cinquefoil grow in more moist areas. Other characteristic plants in Västra mark and Hingsthagen are green-winged orchid, military orchid, burnt orchid, saw-wort, fen violet and yellow oxytropis. Among the rarer plants are montia minor and common centaury.

Birds characteristic for the shrubby areas are mainly species such as linnet, red-backed shrike, common whitethroat and lesser whitethroat. Among the rarer birds are common rosefinch and barred warbler. Further south along the lighthouse

Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*)



A song thrush is skillfully removed from a net at Ottenby Bird Station.

and has 197 steps up to the top. The old lighthouse keeper's cottage is now used by visitors as a rest area. While taking refreshments, they get an insight into the life of the lighthouse keeper and his family.

Ottenby Bird Station and naturum

On the southern cape of Öland you also find Ottenby Bird Station, Ottenby naturum and the restaurant Fågel Blå. The bird station has carried out extensive ringing since 1946, which has resulted in a broad knowledge of the birds' migration routes as well as nesting and overwintering areas. Much of this information is available for visitors to Ottenby naturum. The exhibits show, for example, how birds find their way across the globe, how flocks of birds can keep together and turn in the same direction, and why birds look different depending on the environment they live in.

Ottenby Royal Manor

The area where Ottenby kungsgård (Ottenby Royal Manor) is located has been inhabited since the Iron Age. Ottamby or Ottenby was mentioned as far back as the 13th century and "Ottenby" probably means "village on the cape". In 1539, there were 19 farms in the village. In 1544, King Gustav I of Sweden ordered the village to be destroyed to make place for a royal manor. When Ottenby kungsgård was built, an obligation to perform daywork on the manor was introduced for all farmers on southern Öland. The obligation lasted for more than 200 years. Ottenby kungsgård, still owned by the Crown,

has today around 1 200 cattle and 1 200 sheep grazing in the reserve. The farm also has one of the largest and most modern dairy herds and an art gallery open during summer.

Remember this when visiting the nature reserve!

- Within Ottenby Nature Reserve there is limited access to certain areas (see map), but these areas can be visited via the marked trails.
- During the hunting season, the general public is forbidden to visit the Lunden area. Warning signs will inform you when hunting is in progress.
- It is not permitted to drive cars or other motor vehicles other than on designated roads.
- Parking is only permitted in designated areas.
- It is not permitted to put up tents or park caravans within the reserve.
- You are not permitted to light fires.
- Dogs must always be kept on a lead within the reserve.
- It is not permitted to pick flowers or damage trees or shrubs.
- It is not permitted to hunt, kill, capture or harm wild animals or birds, or their young. It is not permitted to collect nests or eggs or in any other way disturb wildlife.
- Do not damage or remove fixed natural objects or surface formations.
- Do not damage or remove fencing.
- Do not litter.
- Do not use radios, record players, or similar in a disturbing manner.

Further information

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Nature reserves are established to protect and preserve species and habitats, restore or create valuable nature assets or to promote outdoor recreation.

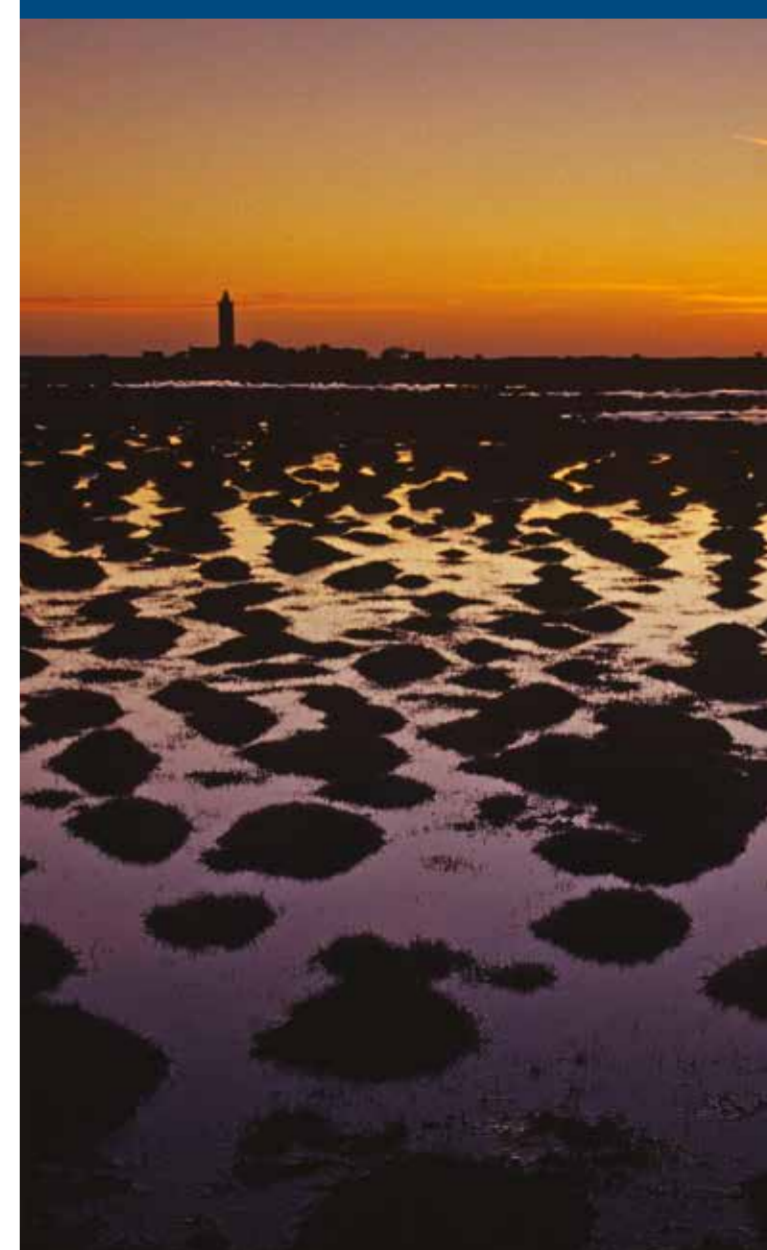
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NATURE RESERVE IN KALMAR COUNTY



Ottenby



- Parking area
- Information
- Dustbin
- Picnic table
- Wind shelter/hide
- Bird watching tower
- Stile
- Restaurant
- Picnic cottage
- Youth hostel
- Viewing platform
- Disabled parking only
- Wheelchair adapted toilet
- Open land
- Wooded land
- Sand
- Field
- Marsh
- Reserve boundary
- Access prohibited 1 April–31 August
- Access prohibited 1 April–15 November
- Roads
- Trail adapted for wheelchairs/prams
- Västra markslingen 3.4 km
- Kyrkhamnsleden 5.7 km
- Norra Lundleden 3.9 km
- Skogsuddeslingen 1.5 km
- Other trail
- Settlement
- Lighthouse Långe Jan
- Ancient remain

