

21. Råbyskogen



Råbyskogen is one of the few places in the municipality where it is really quiet – although Skärstads church is only 2 km away.

The enclosed wooded pasture called Hägnen

The Råbyskogen wood is a large virgin pine forest of over 100 hectares, of very high conservation value. The terrain is varied and undulating, with small pools, marshes and areas of moss in the depressions, wet streambeds, steep rocky slopes with some sheer sections and wooded heights. The highest point within the nature reserve is about 325m above sea level.

Walk quietly here and look for birds such as capercaillie, black grouse and hazel hen which are all found in Råbyskogen. There are several species of owl, including long-eared owl, Tengmalm's owl and tawny owl. Black woodpecker, green woodpecker,

greater spotted woodpecker and lesser spotted woodpecker, crossbill, woodcock and nutcracker have also been observed here.

Bengtagölen is a dark, gloomy lake, close to the reserve's parking area. Such a lake is actually called a dystrophic lake, which means that it is nutrient-poor with humus particles which colour the water brown or black.

Within the reserve there used to be four smallholdings: Tummabo, Bengtatorpet, Höjden and Hägnen. The Hägnen cottage was inhabited until the spring of 1999 despite having no proper access road and no piped water.

Today, Hägnen is owned by the Skärstad regional history association, which has restored several buildings and also keeps the infields closest to the buildings open.

The woodland type in Råbyskogen is dominated by spruce and blueberry undergrowth.

The greatest variety of species is in the steep slope environment by damp watercourses, where there is the greatest amount of dead wood. Here is *Phellinus populicola* which is a fungus associated with woodland environment and with old ash trees. The dot lichen is an interesting little lichen which is found on old spruce bases,



WORTH KNOWING

A footpath leads from the parking place to Hägnen, Gröngölen and back. The John Bauerleden path touches the reserve at the southern part of Hägnen.

HOW TO GET THERE: In Skärstad drive towards the church and then turn right towards Svarttorp and up the slope. Turn right at the sign Naturservat.

PARKING: Parking at the reserve entrance, about 2 km after the right-hand turn.

DIFFICULTY: ● *Medium*

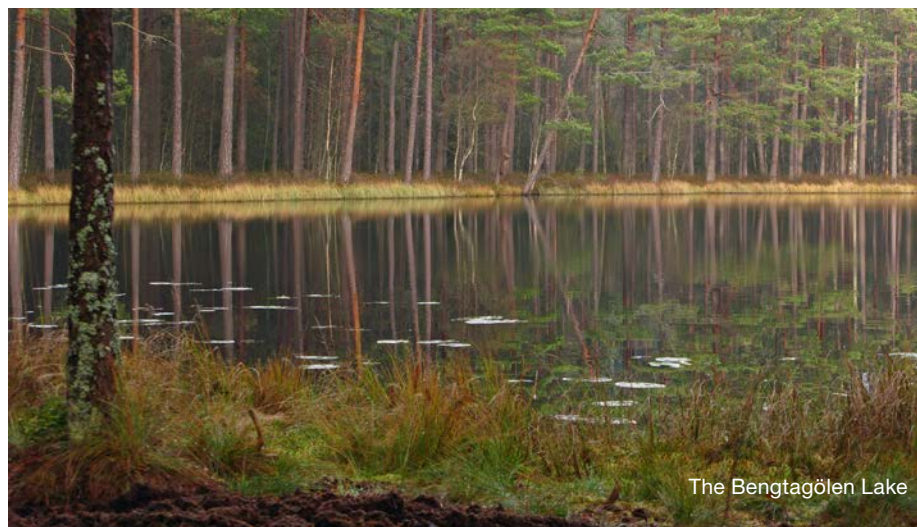


Red banded polypore mushroom



Capercaillie hen

and resembles a paw imprint if one examines it with a magnifying glass. Unusual insects are *Dendrophagus crenatus* which is associated with dead standing coniferous and deciduous trees, and *Cis quadridens*. The latter develops mainly in the red banded polypore mushroom (on dead trunks and logs and stumps of spruce), and also in birch and alder fungi.



The Bengtagölen Lake