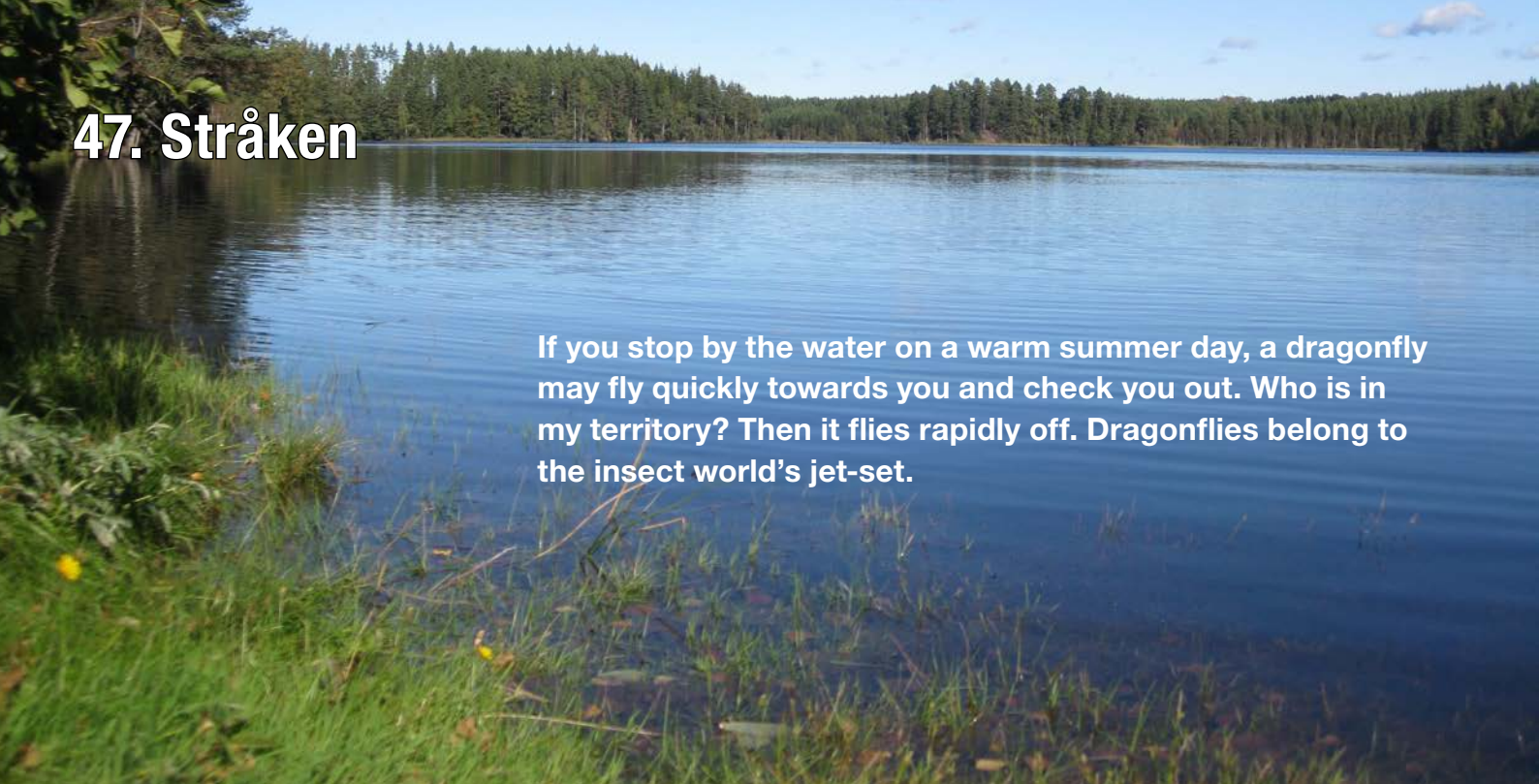


## 47. Stråken



If you stop by the water on a warm summer day, a dragonfly may fly quickly towards you and check you out. Who is in my territory? Then it flies rapidly off. Dragonflies belong to the insect world's jet-set.

Stråken is a very long, narrow lake about 20 km long and 0.5 km wide. Stråken is – like Lake Vättern – a nutrient-poor lake in a north-south rift valley, but the water is a more yellow-brown colour. Stråken is part of the Tidån water system and empties northwards. The lake has a good ecological status. Its greatest depth is 37m. The rich fish fauna of the lake includes salmon trout, vendace, tench, burbot and eel.

Stråken's long shoreline supports coniferous woodland. In some places, the landscape opens into an agricultural landscape. The inland ice sheet

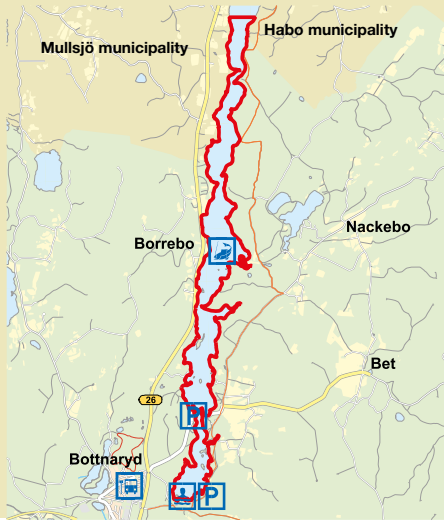
formed the landscape of the Stråken low-lying valley and southwards. The land is undulating with sandy hillocks, esker ridges, valley hollows and terraces. Some of the esker ridges are promontories in the lake.

On the western shore are the farms of Borrebo and Tolabo. On the esker ridges is much pasture, with species which favour traditional meadows and fields. Lake Stråken's irregular shoreline with many promontories provides space for protected plants in the bays. Here can be found shore plantain, water lobelia, dwarf hairgrass, various pondweeds and quillwort in the water.

Many bays have clumps of reeds.

There are many geologically interesting nature areas in the vicinity, for example, the Bottnaryd ancient woodland, the Mörtsjöåsen esker and the long valleys of Nissan and Älgån. Others are the Ledhestromossen bog south of Stråken and the Getaryggsmossen bog 7 km to the south-east. This is a wetland with a boulder ridge surrounded by marshland.

At Stråken one can see osprey and red-throated diver, which come here to fish. One of Stråken's islands, Bockön, is protected as a bird conservation area.



#### WORTH KNOWING

The narrow form of Stråken and its varied shoreline makes it appealing to visit, canoeing, to use a boat on, to go angling there, or skate and ski during winters when the ice is firm. Fishing permits can be bought via Stråken's Fishing Conservation Area Association. The long-distance footpath, Södra Vätterleden, goes along the lake and through easily accessible sand plateaux and undulating esker ridges.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** One can cycle to the bathing place at southern end. A couple of small roads from Bottnaryd go under road 185. By car, road 185, turn off at sign Nackebo/Bet. To reach the bathing place, turn immediately right. Or continue towards Bet, bridge over Stråken level with Rud.

**PARKING:** At the bathing place and bridge at Rud.

**BUS:** Towards Borås/Ulricehamn, bus stop in Bottnaryd. Stråken, with its bathing place, is 1 km east of the village. Take the cycle path under road 185.

**DIFFICULTY:** ● Easy



Red-throated diver



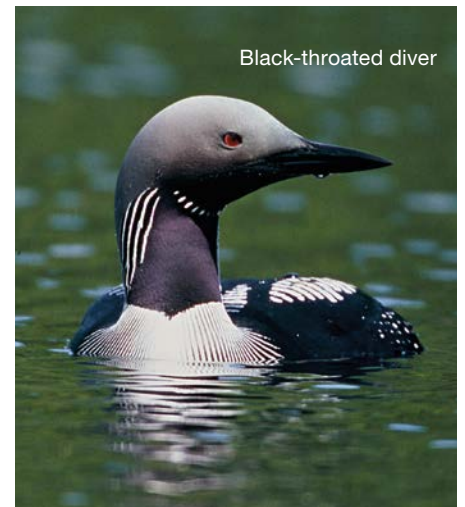
Rose bay/Fireweed



Tench



Osprey



Black-throated diver