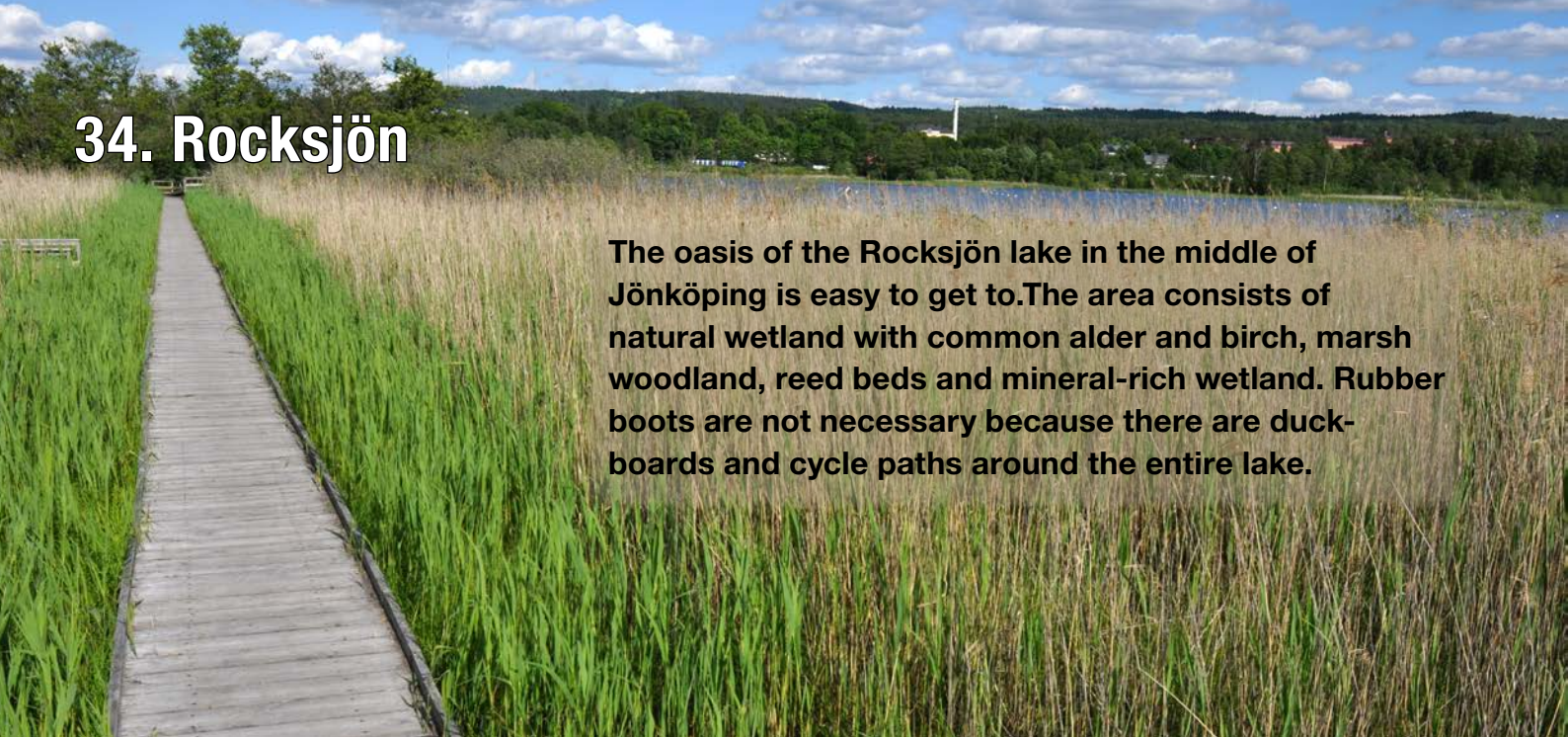


34. Rocksjön



The oasis of the Rocksjön lake in the middle of Jönköping is easy to get to. The area consists of natural wetland with common alder and birch, marsh woodland, reed beds and mineral-rich wetland. Rubber boots are not necessary because there are duckboards and cycle paths around the entire lake.

For nature and open air, Rocksjön is an attractive lake. There are many interesting species such as the marsh harrier, otter, beaver, rare spiders, marsh lousewort and willow gloves fungus.

Rocksjön is a lagoon lake formed when the inland ice sheet melted and moved a massive amount of material. Just north of Rocksjön is Sweden's deepest layer of soil, almost 200m down to the rock face. Despite its small size, Rocksjön is not a shallow lake; the average depth is 4.3m and the greatest depth more than 12m. The water is clear and almost of the same quality as the water of Lake Vättern, because water is continually pumped in via the

Liljeholm canal. There are nesting, resting and wintering bird species at Rocksjön in abundance. Some fifty species nest at the lake, and a total 175 species of bird have been noted at Rocksjön. At the marsh you can hear reed warbler and reed bunting in the spring, and great crested grebe, coot and greylag goose nest along the shore. The red-listed smew over-winters because the water remains open, and the little grebe which is uncommon here, is also present in the lake. The lesser spotted woodpecker drums in the marsh environment and the beautiful scarlet rosefinch can be seen in open park-like environments.

There are many fallen trees at

Rocksjön and at the Simsholm canal. Some are trees which died when the water level rose and some are toppled by beavers working to build a dam in order to have access to fresh food.

There are exciting small creatures such as the specialised beetle, *Cychnus caraboides*. At the catwalk you can find the spider webs of Sweden's largest spider, the globally threatened raft spider. According to insect specialists, the Rocksjö area is a biological "hotspot" for beetles.

Fish here include the spined loach, which is included in the EU's Species and Habitat Directive as worthy of protection. Also recorded here are whitefish, vendace, smelt, grayling,



WORTH KNOWING

From the John Bauer park you can walk along a catwalk through reed beds, over a stream and canal to a cycle track, old railway track, and around the entire lake. There is a bathing place with a sandy beach on the north-eastern shore. You can fish if you obtain a free fishing permit from the Tourist Office, fishing shops, or download it from the municipality's website.

HOW TO GET THERE: Via the A6 area turn left to the youth hostel. Via the Munksjöbron bridge, go round Spira, turn off left at the Kålgård roundabout and right again to the John Bauer park next to the reserve.

PARKING: Parking at the youth hostel on the eastern side of the lake, at the John Bauer park on the west side, or at Ryhov/A6 area.

BUS/TRAIN: Vaggeryd railway, station Rocksjön. Bus to Norrahammar, bus stop Vinterviken. Or to Ryhov/Råslätt, bus stop Rocksjön.

DIFFICULTY: ● Very easy



Marsh harrier ♂

burbot, arctic charr and eel. Some twenty species of fish have been recorded in the lake, and the commonest are perch, roach, rudd and ruffe.

The reserve was inaugurated by the municipality in 2010 and has an area of 79 hectares, of which half consists of the Rocksjön lake. The land is owned by the Municipality of Jönköping which also administers the reserve.



Marsh lousewort



Willow gloves



Purple marshlocks



Swallowtail caterpillar