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BalticReed

Birds breeding in reed

...aspects in relation to harvest & restoration



ARCADA

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Ålands
landskapsregering

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My experience mostly from Lake Tåken – largest reed area in northern Europe?



Birds in the reed

Generally a **very** dense bird community (up to 25 nests per ha in Tåkern)

The reed provide shelter, food, nest material

Nests are eather "platforms" or "baskets"

Some need denser (100 -200 stems per sqm) reed zones with 2-3 year stems

Feeding grounds not nessesary in the nest area

Vicinity to open water generally favourable

Lower density in harvested areas/1 year reed

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Who are they?



Great Reed
Warbler



Bearded Tit

Savi's Warbler
Reed Warbler



Bittern



Marsh Harrier

Reed Bunting



Sedge Warbler



Water Rail



Examples of nests:
Nests built in denser reed with 2-3 year stems

Baskets - weaved between preferably old stems



Great Reed Warbler / Trastsångare / Rastaskerttunen
Reed Warbler / Rörsångare / Rytikerttunen
Reed Bunting / Sävsparv / Pajusirkku
Bearded Tit / Skäggmes / Viiksitimali

Loose baskets - at reedfloor, favoured
by presence of lying bunches of old reed



Water Rail / Vattenrall / Luhtakana
Bearded Tit / Skäggmes / Viiksitimali

Examples of nests

Nest built in denser reed with 2-3 year stems

Platforms of old stems (and twigs), new position every year



Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Brun Kärrhök
Ruskosuohaukka

Fairly easy to locate during
nestbuilding in april/may
Vast feeding grounds outside reed area



Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Rördrom/ Kaulushaikara

Not easy to locate the nests

Easy to locate territory by voice.



Great Egret *Ardea alba*
Ägretthäger / Lalohaikara

Not easy to locate

Examples of nests:

Colonies on harvested (above waterline) areas

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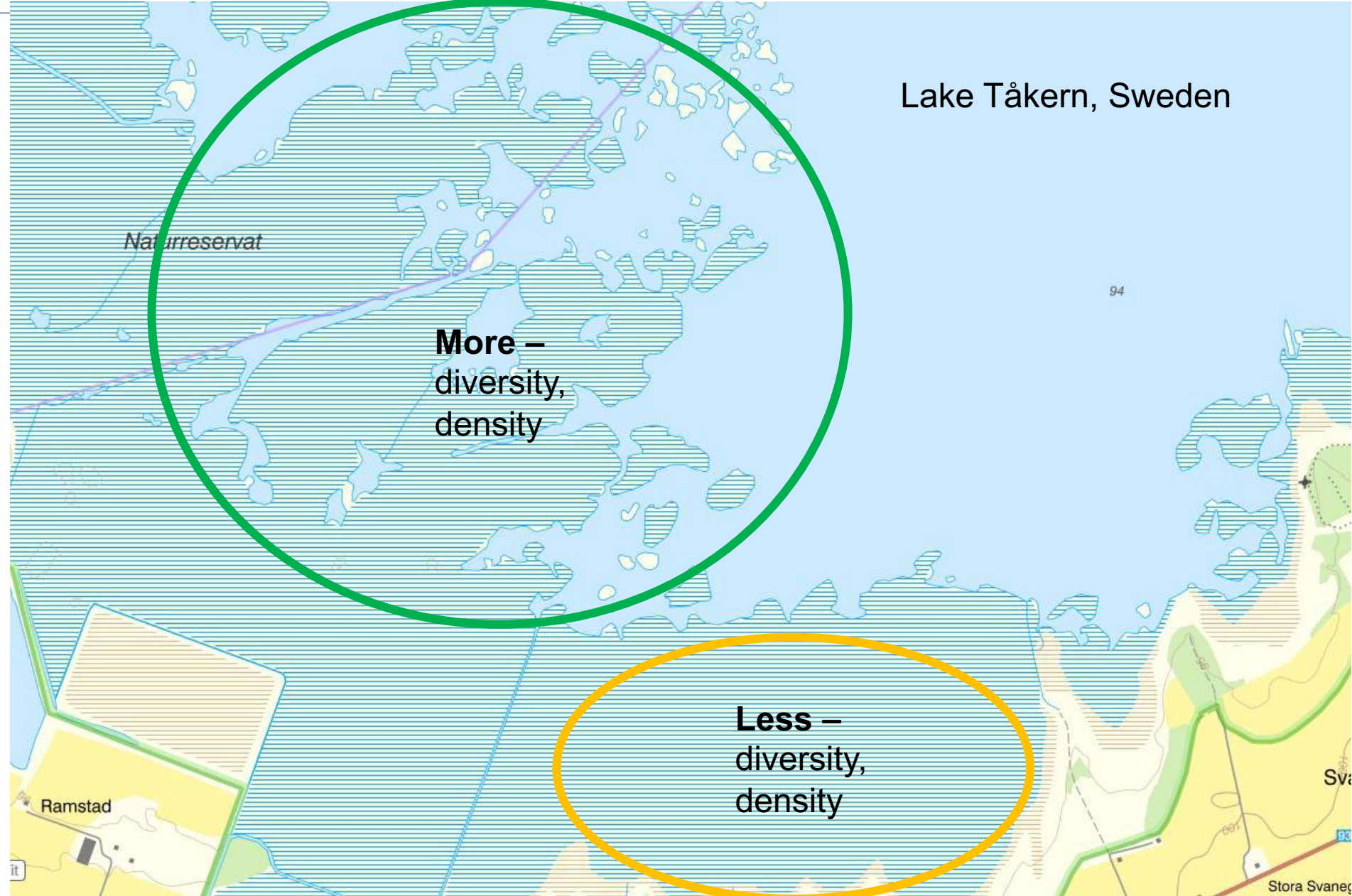
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Skrattmåsar / Naurulokki

Floating platforms - on rootbeds.
Zones with sparse reed.



Terns/Gulls, Coot, Grebes
tärnor/måsar, sothöna, doppingar

Spatial differences



The area IRL

Lake Tåkern, Sweden

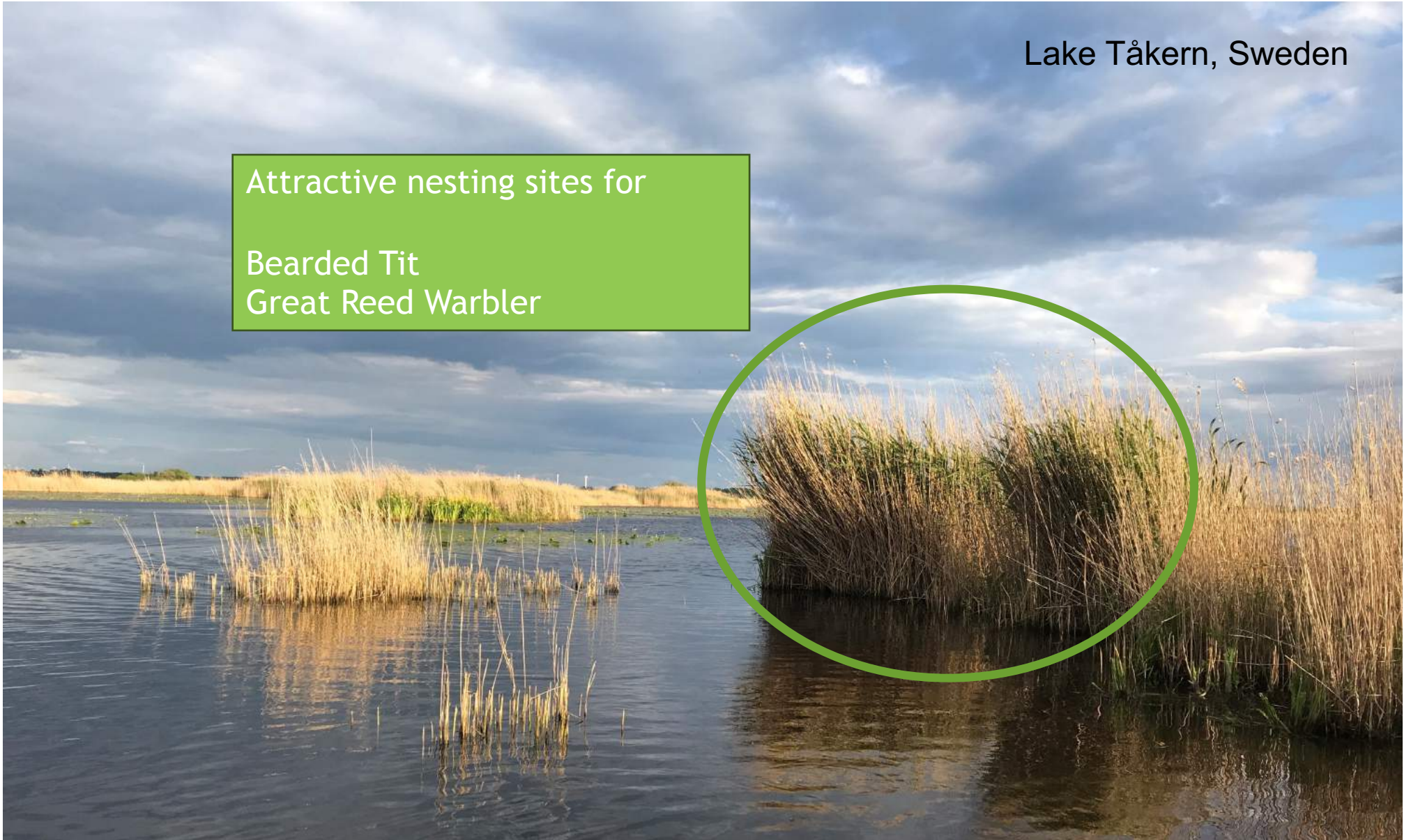


Reed islands - clumps or bunch of reeds in water

Lake Tåkern, Sweden

Attractive nesting sites for

Bearded Tit
Great Reed Warbler



Impact of grazing of Grey-lag Geese

Grey-lags love to feed on green and fresh reed stems in the summer.

Lake Tåkern, Sweden



Spatial differences

Lake Tåkern, Sweden



Bittern
Rördrom,
Kaulushaikara
(Territorial)

Naturreservat



94

3-4 ha
one Bittern



Marsh Harrier
Brun Kärrhök
Ruskosuohaukka
Not strong
territorial



Ramstad

Sva

Stora Svaneö

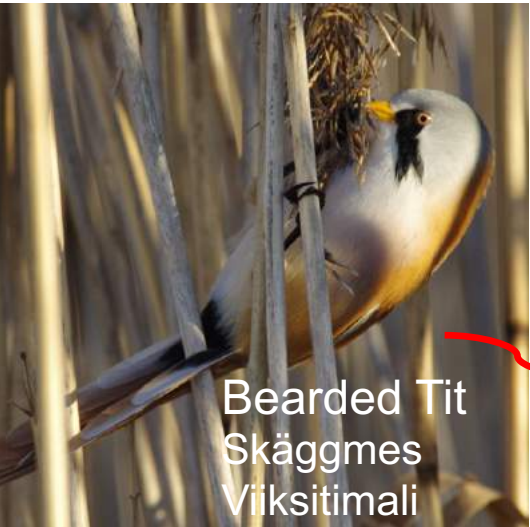
Spatial differences

Lake Tåkern, Sweden

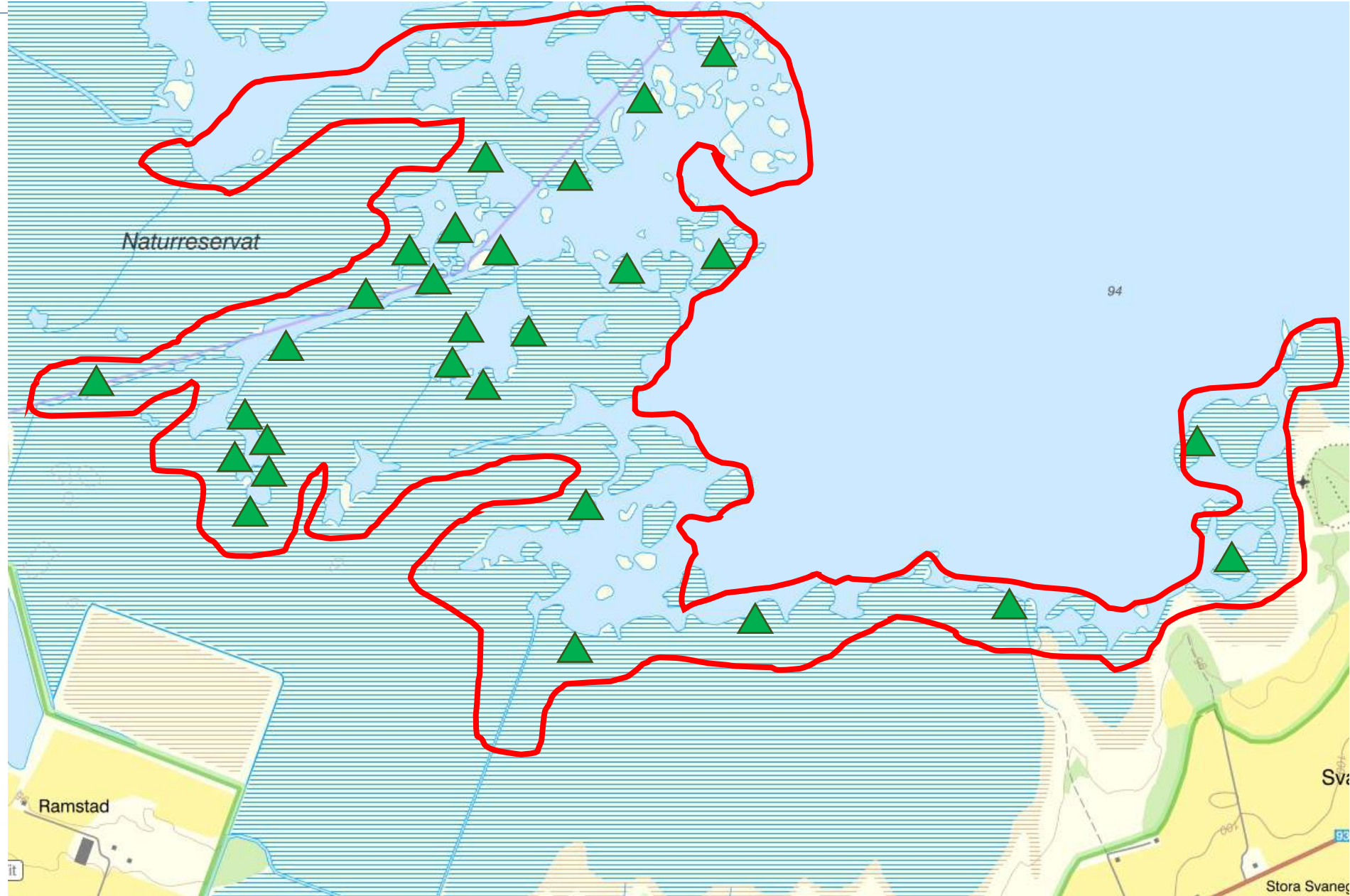
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Great Reed Warbler ▲
Trastsångare,
Rastaskerttunen



Bearded Tit
Skäggmäs
Viksitimali

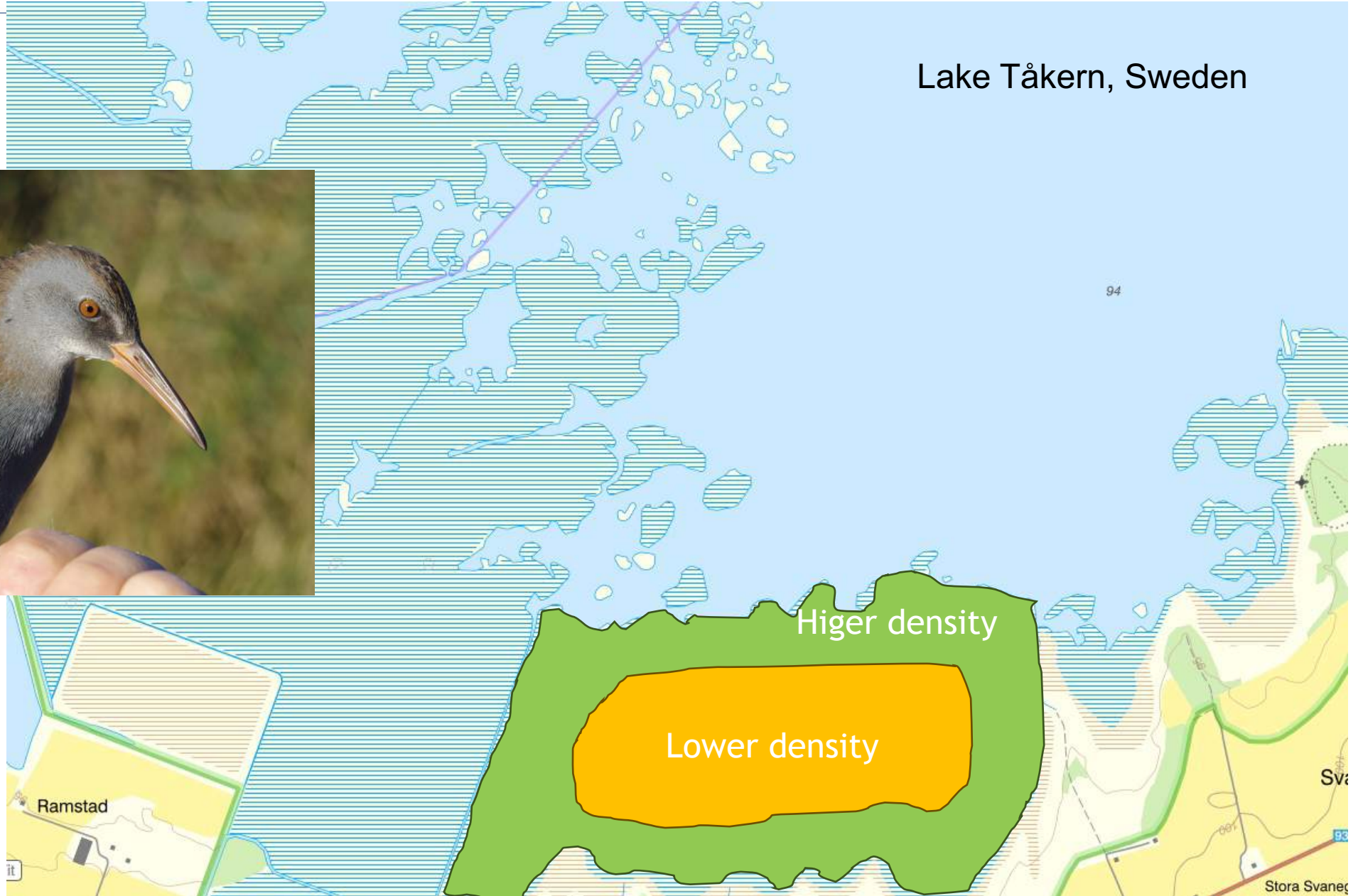


Spatial differences

Lake Tåkern, Sweden



Water Rail (LC)
Vattenrall, Luhtakana



Create "blue borders/zones" along the shore

Improves the
biodiversity

- Amphibians
- Fish
- Water birds



Lake Tåkern, Sweden

Seasonality & quality

Altricial the young stay and develop in the nest.

Precocial the young are mobile from hatching.

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Species in denser, older reed areas										
Species	Status	Redlist	Egg laying (average)	Days from egg to fledging	Post breeding	Clutches	Reeds in water	Chicks	Nest in 1 year reed?	Territory density (pairs per sqkm)
Bittern	Sparse	NT	early May	70	early August	1	x	Partly precocial	No	5 - 20
Water rail	Common	LC	late may	60	early August	1-2	x	Partly precocial	No	40 - 1000
Great Reed warbler	Sparse	NT	mid June	35	early August	1-2	x	Altricial	Normally not	6 - 13
Reed Warbler*	Common	NT	june	30	early August*	1-2	0	Altricial	*Lower density	900 - 6100
Savi's Warbler	Rare	VU	late May	35	early August	1-2	0	Altricial	Normally not	
Beardet Tit	Sparse	LC	april to july	30	early August	3-4	0	Altricial	No	450
Marsh harrier	Sparse	LC	mid may	90	mid August	1	0	Altricial	No	3 - 20
Sedge Warbler	Common	NT	early june	35	early August	1-2	0	Altricial	No	
Reed Bunting	Common	NT	mid May	30	late July	1-2	0	Altricial	No	30-280
Strict 2-3 year reed nesters		* also in 1 year reed in lower density and later breeding								
Nest also in similar wetland habitats with high veg.										
Other specis breeding in water-reed habitat										
Coot	Common	LC	May	40	July	1	x	Precocial	Yes	160 - 690
Crested Grebe	Common	LC	May	40	July	1	x	Precocial	Yes	
Red-necked Grebe	Sparse	LC	May	40	July	1	x	Precocial	Yes	
Crane	Fairly Common	LC	mid May	50	July	1	x	Precocial	Yes	
Gulls-terns	Fairly Common		May	60	July	1	x	Precocial	Yes	
Grey-lag Goose	Common	LC	March	40	June	1	x	Precocial	Yes	

Wrapping up the reed birds for now and to be continued.....

- ✓ Zoom out on a landscape level, consider the "Green Infrastructure", if possible select sites with lower bird densities.
- ✓ Map the bird territories in April-June, before action, many have loud territorial calls
- ✓ Adjust timing to local breeding species
- ✓ Adjust harvesting zones to reed distribution & breeding birds
- ✓ Keep zones with older reed generations, preferably at water edge/channels, lagoons etc. Create new, longer edges?
- ✓ Acquire permissions for planned action
- ✓ Monitor, evaluate, learn and share