



“Migratory Birds for People”

NEWSLETTER no. 9 (October 2011)



IN MEMORIAM DAN NILSSON

Dear colleagues,

I have to bring the sad news to you that our colleague Dan Nilsson has passed away in the weekend of 9th of October 2011.

During our workshop in Spain last year, Dan was already ill and from that moment he was replaced by his colleague Ellen Hultman .

The first time I met Dan was during a workshop in Brussels in November 2008 at the breakfast table at the hotel where we stayed for a Life-event. We talked about our work and found out that we both were or had been involved in building a visitor centre. Dan was already preparing the realisation of a brand new centre at Lake Tåkern. I invited Dan to come to the Netherlands in order to explore some visitor centres in our country and to learn more about a “Dutch approach”.



Weerribben , April 2009

In April Dan arrived with two colleagues from Sweden and we had two intensive days travelling through the country. We also discussed the ideas of Staatsbosbeheer to work together with an international organisation like Wetlands International in order to enhance the level of information for the new-to-be-built visitor centre in the Oostvaardersplassen. At this point Dan suggested to work together in future, because he saw the advantages of being able to connect visitor centres at wetlands, for instance with the use of webcams.

He wrote in his report about this trip:

“ I put forward an idea for an international project focused on visitor centres connected to birdrich wetlands. Some of Europe’s very finest wetland areas could take part in the project. Such a project could have three subsidiary goals as set out below.

a.) That visitor centre personnel should have the opportunity to visit each others’ facilities in order to exchange findings and be inspired by each others’ work.

15

b.) That the various centres should exchange display materials with each other. One idea is to have joint webcam transmissions from each area. In this way, via direct webcam



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transmissions in autumn and winter, we in Sweden could, for example, watch “our” breeding birds even in the winter. The “reverse” would, of course, be true for those providing the transmissions. I believe this would be an appreciated part of any overall display at a centre. It would also firmly establish that nature conservation must often be undertaken internationally. c.) Improve the information about each visitor centre (with the purpose of increasing the number of foreign tourists). The potential for nature tourism in these areas is great! “

So, at this point started our “Migratory Birds for People” program and we have to thank Dan for his view on this.

Dan will be missed in our network and we wish his family, colleagues and friends the fortitude to cope with this loss.

On behalf of the steering group,
Roelof Heringa

Obituary at the website of Lansstyrelsen (translated from Swedish text)

We mourn a great conservation hero

Our colleague Dan Nilsson died October 9, 2011 after a brief illness. Dan was a key member and team leader for conservation in Östergötland, and his efforts have been exemplary in the whole country.

Dan was a visionary who stubbornly turn ideas into reality. This has been clearly demonstrated in the many projects he led and worked on professionally. 'Nature for All' made a lot of nature pearls available for quite a lot of people and among other things, led to "Östergötland's natural and cultural tours" that became well known throughout Sweden. Dan was always the driving force behind this development. Another of many examples is the "ROSORIS" which led to better management of 40 valuable meadows and natural pastures throughout the county. Most recently, Dan was right at the centre of the construction of the Tåkern Visitor Centre, who never gave up, where his ideas and tenacious problem-solving abilities came to the fore. It's so sad that fighter Dan will not be present at the completion of the centre.

Nature in Östergötland would have been much poorer without Dan's efforts. As manager of the nature reserve, he was a good example of working with landowners and users - reliable, upright and unconventional, always focusing on good practice.

We feel great sorrow and our thoughts are with his loved ones. We share their sense of loss but also feel pride at having been close to such a strong personality full of great energy and humour combined with peace and security.

But Dan still lives in many ways remains. He is not only strong in our memories, but also lives on through black-tailed godwit on the marshes at the Black river discharge, odor spurs and semolina shells in kalkkärren at Ombergsliden, carpets of svinrot at Sättra meadows, flower-rich rocky meadows at Idhult and lots of honey flower on Tåkerns bird-rich meadows.

Dan - you were in my life and you had so much more to accomplish. We will do everything we can to fulfill your ideas and aspirations, and your work will live on in an Östergötland vibrant and rich in nature!
County Administrative Board of Östergötland
by

Claes Svedlindh