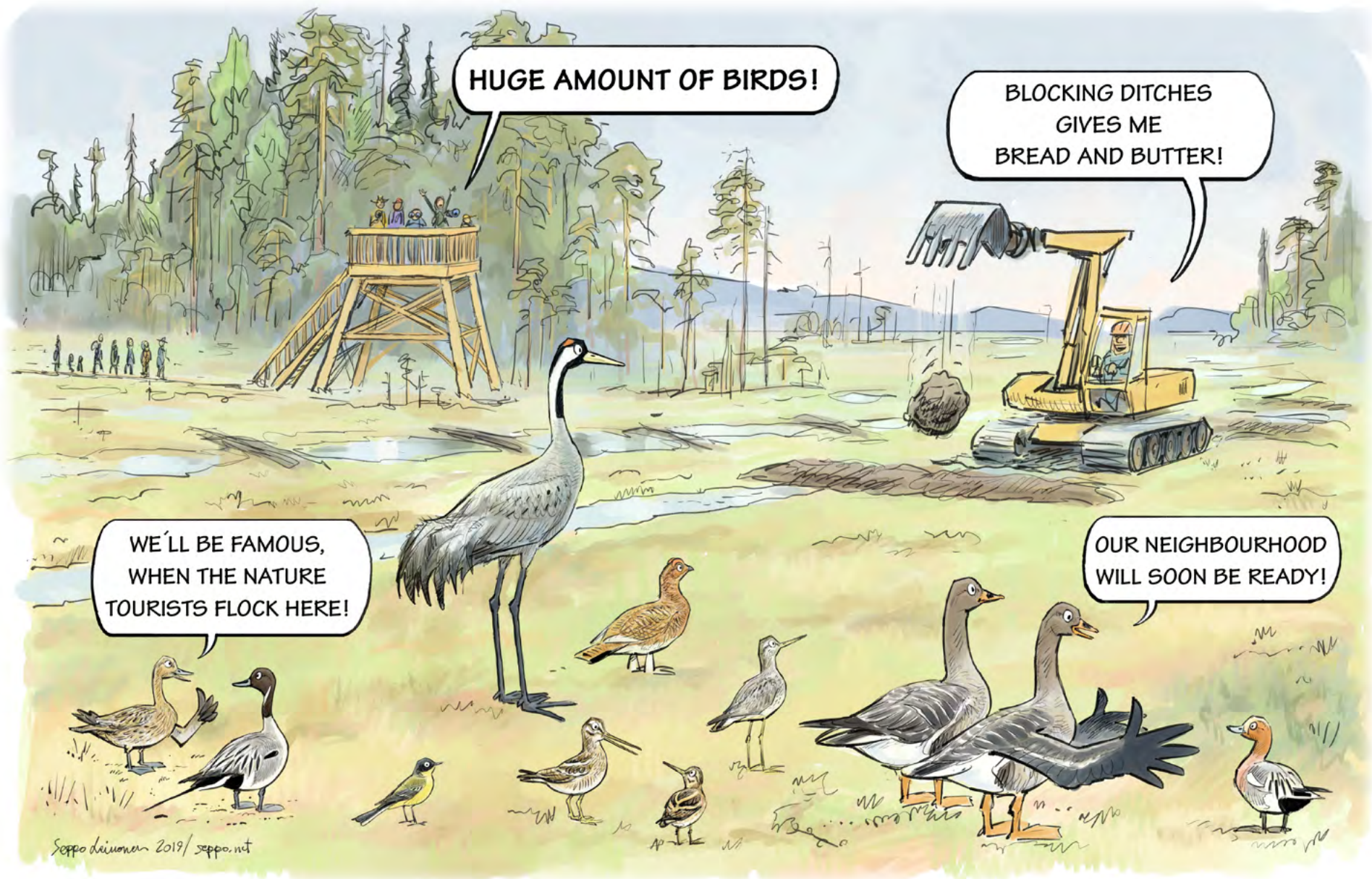


4 Peatland biodiversity benefits many!



Peatland biodiversity benefits many!

There are more than one hundred different types of natural mires and peatlands in Finland. They differ in moisture levels and nutrition, which is why their species also vary.

Originally, one third of Finland's surface area was made up of peatlands. More than half of these (nearly 5 million hectares) were drained for timber production or cleared for fields. Drainage has caused a great deal of harm, especially to bird species and water bodies.

Unlike ditches, peatlands prevent excess nutrients and soil from entering downstream waters.

Well-being of wetlands brings well-being for people

When the ditches of a dried peatland are blocked, the peatland will once again retain a large volume of water. Many threatened animals and plants regain their moist habitats, and biodiversity improves. Raising the water level preserves peat carbon sinks and helps to slow down climate change in the long term. There are also savings in water protection costs as peatlands clean and hold water and solids.

When a peatland is restored closer to its natural state, the landscape becomes more open. Every other Finn enjoys berry picking. A thriving berry spot provides vitality for berry-pickers and hikers alike. The growing popularity of nature tourism offers work for local operators, while the restoration of peatlands offers business for machine entrepreneurs.

Peatlands and other wetlands offer such great benefits that restoration to their natural state is absolutely worthwhile!

MORE INFORMATION

- We have compiled knowhow for over 30 years of peatland habitat restoration in Finland. [Ecological restoration in drained peatlands \(publication, julkaisut.metsa.fi\)](https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/).
- Peatlands of Finland in two minutes. [Hydrology LIFE project video tells us how the nature of wetlands can be protected by habitat restoration \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

WETLAND CARDS: [JULKAISUT.METSA.FI/
EN/PUBLICATIONS/SHOW/2693](https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/en/publications/show/2693)



Hydrology LIFE project – Restoring peatlands and wetlands all over Finland

During the project we safeguard peatlands, small water bodies and important bird lakes in over 100 Natura 2000 areas. The majority of peatlands in Finland is severely degraded by forestry-drainage. The restoration measures recover the habitats towards the natural state which is vital for many valuable species.

Flood protection, water quality and game areas will also be improved.

The project is run by Metsähallitus, Parks & Wildlife Finland from 2017 to 2023.

www.metsa.fi/en/project/hydrology-life



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