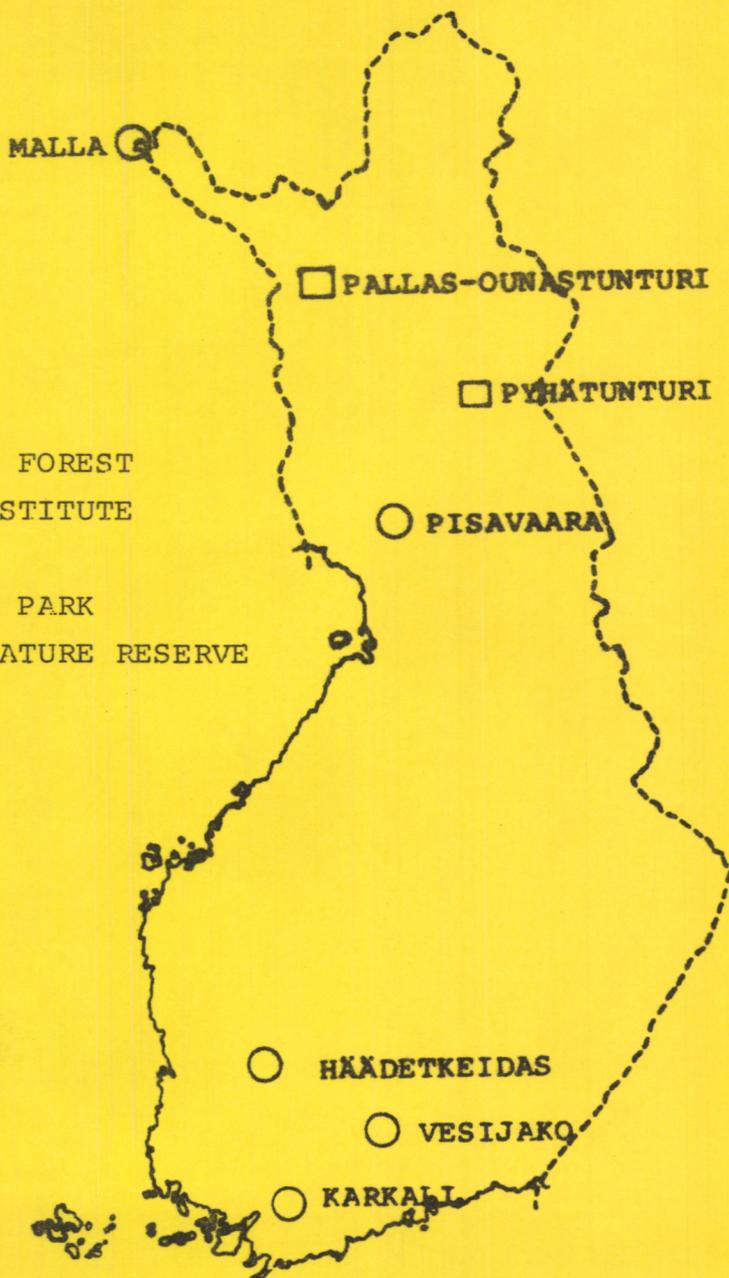


THE PALLAS-OUNAS
FELLS



NATIONAL PARK



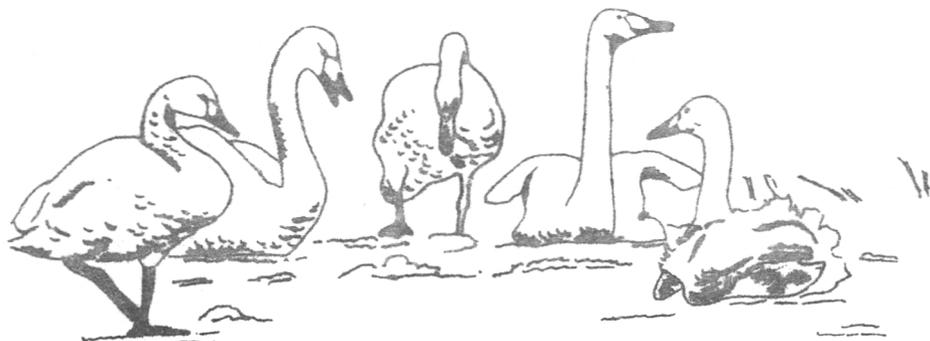
THE FINNISH FOREST
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

- NATIONAL PARK
- STRICT NATURE RESERVE

THE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE WELCOMES YOU

TO THE PALLAS - OUNAS FELLS

NATIONAL PARK



THE PALLAS-OUNAS FELLS NATIONAL PARK

Finnish natural parks have primarily been established to preserve their domain in its natural state for research purposes. Therefore movement in the area is forbidden or limited in a manner required for such a purpose.

National parks are intended to be public sights of the country's nature for everyone to see freely. In our national parks Finnish nature displays its original beauty and abundance to be studied, enjoyed and appreciated both by native citizens and foreign visitors. Our common duty is to follow the regulations for national parks so that these majestic parks of ours can retain their heritage not only for people of today but also for future generations as splendid evidence of untouched nature.



The Pallas-Ounas Fells National Park was established in 1938 and today is the country's second largest national park with a surface area of 50,000 hectares. This makes it a significant conservation area by international standards. The National Park extends onto the areas of the three communes of Kittilä, Muonio and Enontekiö.

The National Park covers most of the Ounasselkä fells continuing south as far as the Ylläs fells chain. These fells are the most stately and highest chain of fells in our country after the great fells in the "arm" of the country. Pyhäkero (711 m) is the highest visible crest situated in the Ounas fells in the north. Tappuri (644 m) and Outtakka (723 m) lie further south. Lower lying regions occupy the middle of the Park. There is Pahakuru (Devil's Gully) which deserves its name due to the rough terrain in some places. On its south side lying in an east to west line, there are three impressive canyons, Ruotokuru, Hannunkuru and Suaskuru, where the clear, cold streams

splash down the steep slopes. There are eight fells belonging to the Vuontiskero chain, nearly all of which are more than 600 meters high. There are also eight fells belonging to the Pallas chain, the highest, Taivaskero, or Himmelriikki, at 807 meters being the highest within the National Park. In the southern part of the Park there remains a cluster of three fells called Keimiö, Lommol and Sammal with Keimiö the highest at 611 meters.

The geology in the Pallas-Ounas Fells National Park

The Ounasselkä fell chain is the remains of the ancient, vast mountains which have during thousands of years been smoothed and crumbled by the forces of nature. The bedrock in the southern part of the Park is amphibolite slate and quartzite in the northern part. At the foot of the fells are imposing sandhills formed during the ice age. Morainic gravel is the dominant type of earth. Melt-off streambeds from the continental glacier are visible in many places in the National Park area. They appear, for instance, three kilometers south of the Pallas Tourist Hotel.

Flora in the Pallas-Ounas Fells National Park

The Pallas-Ounas Fells National Park lies in the coniferous forest zone. Approximately 60 per cent of the surface area in the southern part is covered by pine forest. There is no spruce forest in the northern part at all. The northern limit of the spruce line lies just on the Ounas Pikkulaki fell. There are beautiful slender and pillar-shaped Lapland spruces growing by the road leading to the Pallas fells tourist hotel and also on the lower slopes of the Pallas fell chain.

Wetland groves stand in places where there are alkaline types of rock. One of the most northern and lushest spruce groves in western Lapland lies by the stream to the west of Suaskuru.

In these groves grow sweet-scented bedstraw (*Galium triflorum*), Lapland buttercup (*Ranunculus lapponicus*), long-leaved starwort (*Stellaria longifolia*), lettuce (*Mulgedium alpinum*), Ostrich fern (*Struthiopteris filicestrum*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix femina*), spreading wood fern (*Dryopteris austriaca*), Queen-of-the-meadow (*Filipendula ulmaria*), to mention a few.

In the denser stands grow the most colorful lowland herbs in the North: globeflower (*Trollius europaeus*), melancholy thistle (*Cirsium heterophyllum*), millet grass (*Milium effusum*), cranesbill (*Geranium silvaticum*), northern marsh violet (*Viola epipsila*) Arctic sweet coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus*) and red baneberry (*Actaea erythrocarpa*).

By streams there are willow thickets difficult to penetrate. Willows (*Salix lapponum* and *Salix phylicifolia*) are a part of the vegetation in these regions.

Around springs sometimes grow large *Angelica archangelica* as well as species of fireweed, such as Hornemann willow herb (*Epilobium Hornemannii*), milkweed willow herb (*Epilobium alsinifolium*) and swamp willow herb (*Epilobium palustre*). Some insectivorous plants such as sundew (*Drosera*), common butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) and a white species of it (*Pinguicula alpina*) grow in the swamps found in the National Park.

When climbing higher up the slope of the fell, coniferous forest gradually thins out and finally disappears at the height of around 400-550 meters. In its place appears mountain birch resembling an apple tree. Several more meters up it also gradually dwindles out.

On the terraces of rock on the fells, one finds for instance Alpine mouse-ear chickweed (*Gerastium alpinum*), Alpine saxifrage (*Saxifraga nivalis*) and *Draba rupestris*.

In addition to the general undergrowth, bilberry, heather and crowberry, as well as Lapland shrubs like Alpine bearberry (*Arctostaphylos alpina*) and blue mountain heather (*Phyllodoce coerulea*) grow in the birch zone. During the colorful autumn season, Alpine bearberry forms a beautiful carpet standing out in various shades of red. Above the timber line the growing season is short, as the snow lies long on the ground due to the lower temperature in these higher regions. Plants growing under these conditions must during the short summer devote themselves to blooming and producing seeds. The long period of light nights promotes rapid growth of vegetation on the fells when photosynthesis and nutritive processes continue night and day. The same plants which are found in the birch zone grow on the fells above the timber line. Also trailing azalea (*Loiseleuria procumbens*) with a beautiful pale violet flower can be found in the region.

Arctic vegetation of the places where snow lies grows on the high crests. Annual plants cannot subsist there. The beautiful *Diapensia lapponica* is one of the plants of these high regions. Eight-petaled mountain avens (*Dryas octopetala*) with perhaps even more graceful petals grows on the fell meadows of the Ounas fell where the ground is calcareous. *Salix polaris* and two-flowered sandwort (*Minuartia biflora*) are also a part of the vegetation in places where snow remains. Only liverwort grows in the highest places where other plants cannot live.

It is also worth mentioning that more than 180 species of seed plants have been found in the open fells of the National Park, though vegetation in the Park is said to be sparse and poor in species.

Fauna in the Pallas-Ounas Fells National Park

Fauna in the Park is fairly rich in species due to, for instance, abundant slope forest. Of the biggest mammals, bear is one of the regular inhabitants of the Park. Elk population has recently increased. The large carnivores such as wolf and wolverine have become rarer. Foxes have, on the other hand, grown in numbers year by year. Young forests offer shelter and food

to hares. Some years the hare population might locally over-expand until foxes eliminate the surplus.

Lemming (*Lemmus lemmus*) is surely one of the most extraordinary animals in Fenno-Scandia. It makes its nest in willow thickets on a hair moss hummock. The population annually varies a great deal. If the food supply ends, it might be led by its wandering instinct to rove far outside of its own territory. Then the lemming might frighten the passer-by by attempting to defend itself boldly and furiously, screaming and snickering unpleasantly.

Birdlife of the National Park is abundant. For example the count of bramblings per surface unit might be twenty times that of other forests in Lapland. The number of song thrushes is comparable to that of southern Finnish forests. The biggest of our game birds, capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) lives in these spruce stands.

Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) becomes more common on climbing upwards. Other species found there are robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), golden-crested kinglet (*Regulus regulus*), chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) and bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*). The avifauna of the South extends surprisingly far into the North along the rank slope forests.

Snow bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) and shore lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) live in high places. Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*) can be found on the fells and in their highest canyons. Its relative, the white ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*) is found lower in willow thickets in the swamps. Typical species in the National Park uplands are plover (*Charadrius morinellus*) and golden plover (*Charadrius apricarius*). Long-tailed skua (*Stercorarius longicaudus*, a skilful flier, can also be seen in the northern part of the Park. It nests only at Ounas as does the Lapland bunting (*Calcarius lapponicus*). The Arctic

buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*) nests in steep walls of rock. Among others, the red-beaked tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) are common wetland birds. From two to three eagle pairs (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and an extraordinary rarity, the sea eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) being the only pair in Finland nesting in inland, live in the National Park area. Otters (*Lutra lutra*) can be found in the Park streams.

It is interesting to note that the most northern incidence of adder in our country is in Pahakuru.

The Pallas-Ounas Fell National Park has from earlier times provided excellent reindeer pasture land. In late winter and early spring the reindeer herds gather at the Park and during the first half of May the first fawns are born in places where snow has melted from the fell tops. A reindeer fence separating the Kyrö and Nääkkälä reindeer owners' associations stretches across the National Park near the Lumikuru.

H i k i n g t r a i l s

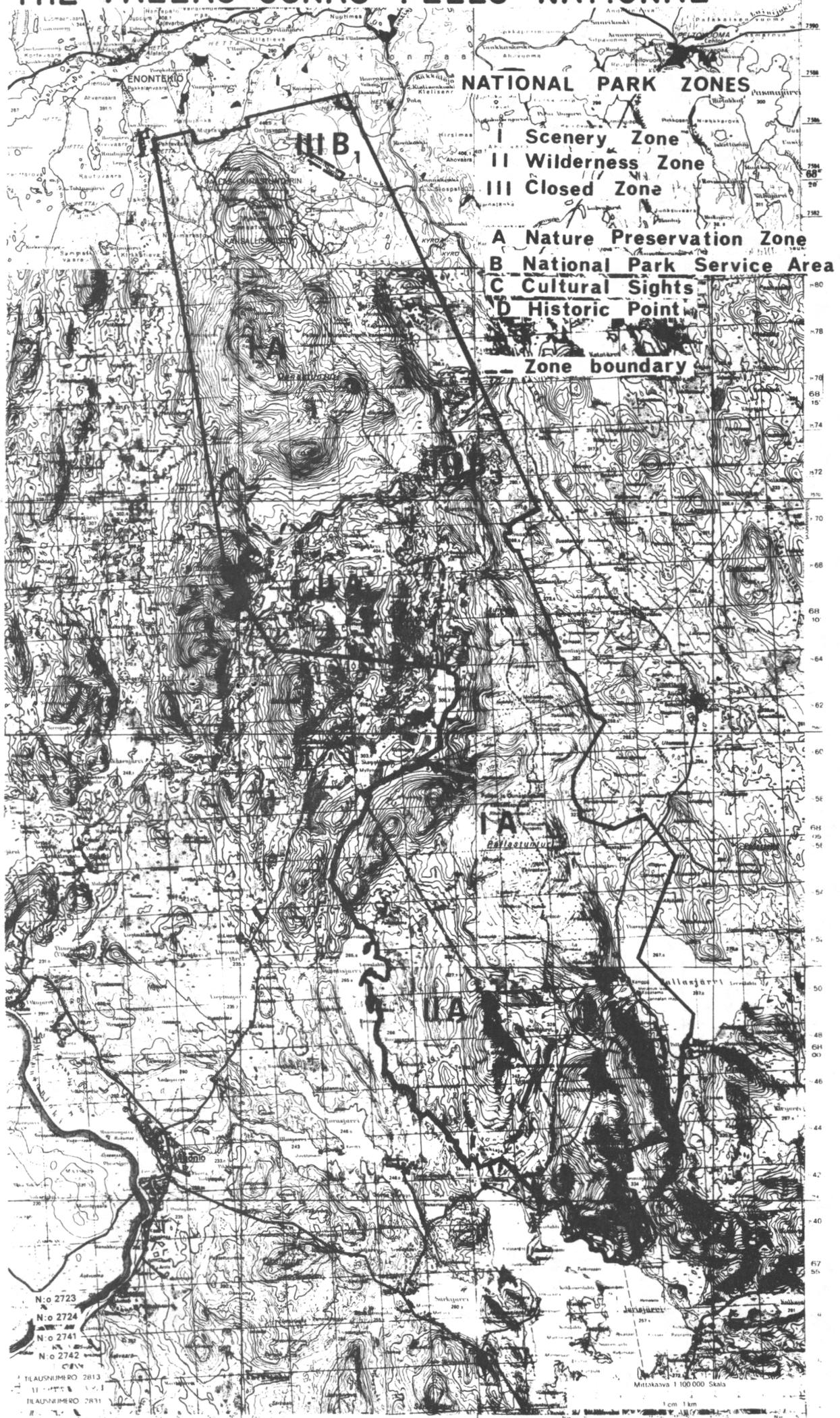
The Pallas-Hetta fell route 64 km

A 64 kilometer-long marked hiking trail runs through the Park from Hetta to Pallas.

The road sign "Hetta-Pallas Fell Route 64 km" by the road in Hetta, a village at Enontekiö, indicates the beginning of the trail. Boat transportation across Lake Ounas can be requested at Nillo Laakso's house or at Toivo Rantatalo's. When coming from the opposite direction transportation can be requested by lighting a signal fire on the shore sand during darkness. During the night from 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM no transportation is available.

The route is marked throughout by signposts spaced a relatively short distance apart. Fire must not be built on the route

THE PALLAS-OUNAS FELS NATIONAL



NATIONAL PARK ZONES

- I Scenery Zone
- II Wilderness Zone
- III Closed Zone
- A Nature Preservation Zone
- B National Park Service Area
- C Cultural Sights
- D Historic Point

Zone boundary

N:o 2723
N:o 2724
N:o 2741
N:o 2742

Mittakaava 1:100 000 Skala

except in the areas marked for fire, which are by the pond at Pahtavaara, at Sioskuru, Nammalankuru, Suaskuru and Rihmakuru. It is four kilometers to the boundary of the National Park when following the path beginning by Lake Ounas. When passing the first fire area mentioned above, it is about three kilometers to the Pyhäkero fells cabin. Here starts the climb along the southwest slope of Pyhäkero (725 m) belonging to the Ounas chain of fells. An excellent view opens up from the crest of Kere.

From here the path descends gradually to Sioskuru where there is a fire area by the Sios River and the Sioskuru fells cabin with public and private sides. The key to the cabin can be reserved at the Pallas guide center (tel. Muonio 1451) and can be picked up either at the Hetta Tourist Hotel or at the guide center depending on one's point of departure.

From Sioskuru the trail gradually rises up to Siosvaara and descends again to a wide basin divided by the Marasto River. On the left the Tappuri wilderness cabin can be seen about one kilometer to the east of the trail near the Marasto reindeer separation fence. On the south side of the basin rise the great crests, Tappuri (644 m) and further to the west Outtakka (723 m), the highest crest in the Ounas fell chain.

The path continues onto the west side of Tappuri, ascending on the west side of Outtakka and dropping down to a plain between the Ounas fells and the Suas fell. Then comes Pahakuru. On its north side is the Pahakuru wilderness cabin. The Sandström hut burnt down in 1975 by a bonfire lit by some foreign tourists. In autumn 1977, the Institute of Forestry Research will build a new wilderness cabin on the same site. Pahakuru is a peculiar canyon full of ponds, gullies, gorges and hills. The so-called Belfries, or several gravel ridges within a small area, form an interesting natural formation. The Hannunkuru fells cabin, Haukkalinna, where there is also an excellent sauna much favored

by hikers, is reached about a three kilometers further from the Sandström hut. This fells cabin has both a public and private side. Near the Hannunkuru cabin there are also facilities to build a fire. Gradually you approach Suas fell (511 m). After about five kilometers you reach Suaskuru where there are facilities for a fire.

Now the path rises quite steeply up to Lumikero. Its most northern crest is about 676 m and the southern crest is 615 m. The path drops sharply down to Lumikuru where a reindeer fence runs along the boundary between reindeer owners' association areas. Then comes the ascent up to Vuontiskero's (685 m) southwestern and western slopes. You descend back down to a valley where the little historic Montell wilderness hut comes into view. From this valley lying among Vuontiskero, Keräskero (640 m) and Savokero (620 m) a trail leads past the Vuontispiirtti Hotel to the Yli-Kyrö village along the Röyninkuru. The path branching to the west goes to the village of Kerässieppi. About two kilometers from the Montell hut is the Nammalankuru fells cabin, or the Luoma outdoor shelter. From its steps unfolds an expansive and regal view towards Nammalankuru. On the front left all eight round tops of the Pallas fell chain are visible.

About four kilometers from the Luoma outdoor shelter, the path descends to Rihmakuru where there are fire facilities. On its west side are several springs.

Then begins a long, sloping elevation through the Rihmakuru hills up to the plateau between Lehmäkero (760 m) and Orotuskero (703 m) which is fell meadow easy to walk.

This is followed by a long climb up to the highest crest of the Pallas fell chain, Taivaskero. Vast views stretch out in every direction from its crest. From Taivaskero, you descend down Pyhäkero's western slope towards the Pallas fell Tourist Hotel and guide center. Vatikuru lies to the west, becoming wider and lusher at its lower part.

The departure point sign for the Hetta-Pallas fell route at Pallas is by the guide center.

The Ylläs-Pallas fell route 90 km

A section of the Ylläs-Pallas fell route runs through the Pallas-Ounas Fells National Park.

The trail originates near the Pallas guide center. It will be marked in 1977 with trail signs - yellow plastic strips around trees - used in the Scandinavian countries.

The trail goes by the southwest side of Pallaskero and descends for five kilometers to the Muonio-Raattama road and shore at Lake Pallas where there are facilities to make a fire. Before coming to the road you cross the Pyhä River flowing into Lake Pallas. There the path follows the Muonio-Raattama road for about three kilometers and then leaves the road to run gradually up to Lommol fell (545 m). There is a magnificent view from its top towards Lake Pallas and north to where the Pallas fell chain can be seen. Mustavaara and Sammal fell (576 m) sit in the southwest. From Lommol fell the trail descends to a canyon and crosses the boundary of the National Park.

The trail thereafter goes through Mustakero, the Rauhala village, Kesäläki, Koivuvaara, Pahtavuoma, Äkäskero, Kukas fell, Lainio fell, Kesänski and Ylläs fell to Lake Ylläs.

The Olos-Pallas route 24 km

A route marked in 1976 with the Scandinavian trail signs (yellow plastic strips) runs from Olos fell to Pallas through the village of Torassieppi. From the Olos hotel the route winds between the Lakes of Toras-Sieppi and Toras to the village of Torassieppi, and continues to the south end of Lake Vuontis where the River Vuontis is forded. The trail goes to the Pallas guide center through the southern part of Rautupalo and Mäntyrovo.

N a t u r e t r a i l s

There are also two nature trails of about three kilometers in length in the Pallas-Ounas Fells National Park. One starts from the guide center and the other from Lake Pallas.



In spite of numerous visitors, the Pallas-Ounas Fells National Park ought to be preserved in the state in which nature's own forces have formed it during thousands of years: a beautifully unspoilt, clean, festive temple of forests and fells, as Professor Reino Kalliola, our esteemed state councilor on nature conservation, has described it.



LETTUCE
LACTÚCA ALPÍNA



BLUE MOUNTAIN HEATHER
PHYLLODÓCE COERÚLEA



DIAPENSIA LAPPONICA



TRAILING ATSALEA
LOISELEÚRIA PROCUMBENS



QUEEN-OF-THE-MEADOW
FILIPÉNDULA
ULMÁRIA

NATIONAL PARK ZONING

According to regulations relating to visitors, the National Park is divided into three zones, being scenery, wilderness and closed zones.

The scenery zone includes most of the National Park. The activity of nature is not interfered with in this zone. Movement under one's own forces is allowed. The building of wilderness huts and forming camping and campfire areas and trails and so on are permitted in this area by the National Park Administration. But camping and building campfires are allowed only in those places marked for such uses.

In the wilderness zone natural events are not interfered with. Camping and movement there under one's own forces are allowed but no hiking services are provided.

In the closed zone the activity of nature is not interfered with. The public may be restricted either completely or at certain times or in certain places. Then some trails can be marked or allowed in the area.

According to service measures, the National Park can be divided into five parts; nature preservation zone, national park service area, culturally scenic area, historic point and recreational area.

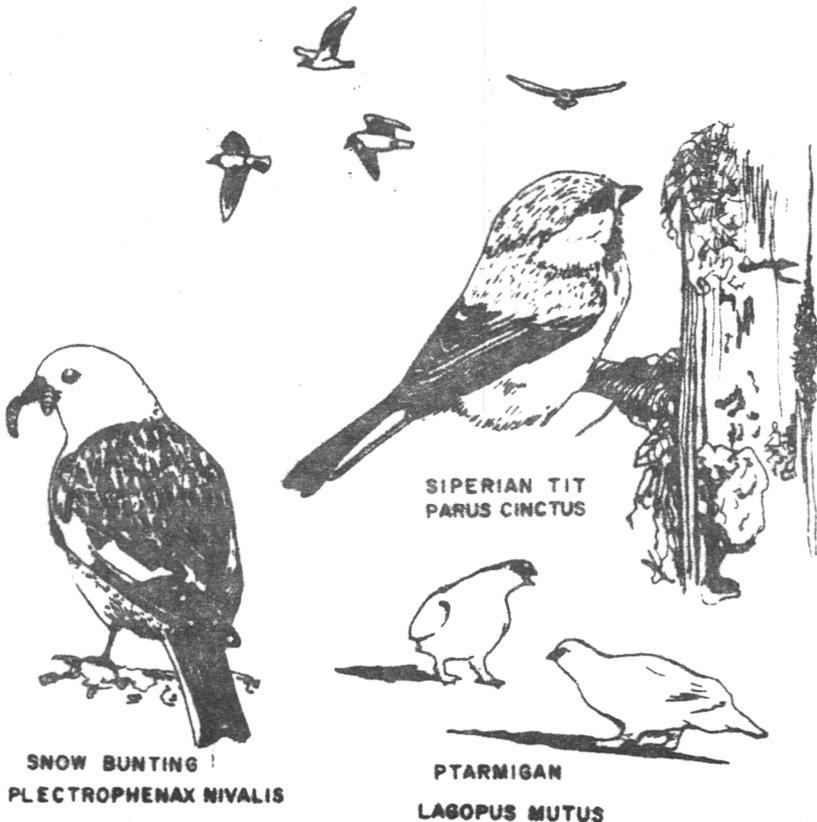
No service measures are performed in the nature preservation zone as the area is preserved in its natural state.

The national park service area is a nature area which requires service measures in nature to attain conservation objectives, such as for instance, returning the ecosystem changed by human beings to its natural state, achieving a particular phase of development or creating or maintaining the ecological environment for plant and animal species requiring special protection.

Forests formerly cleared and burnt for cultivation, stream bank meadows, pastures and reindeer separation fences are cultural sights, for instance.

Historic objects might include valuable buildings and structures, archeological remains, places linked with tradition or history and so on.

The recreational area of the National Park includes the guide center, roads, parking areas, trails, camping and campfire areas, service buildings, hotels and other areas and objects concerning public service and administration.



WELCOME to relax and enjoy yourselves

The national parks are Finland's natural beauty spots meant for everyone's education, enjoyment and recreation.

For this reason the following bye-laws should be observed.

- The removal of earth and stones is forbidden as is drawing on stones and rocks.
- It is forbidden to pick or damage branches or plants. The picking of mushrooms and berries is permitted.
- It is forbidden to tease or kill birds and animals and to destroy their nests or eggs.
- Fishing is permitted only in Lake Pallas with licence.
- Dogs should be kept on a lead.
- It is forbidden to leave litter in the park.
- Fires may be lit only in places reserved for this and then the utmost caution should be observed.
- Camping is permitted only on the official camping sites.
- Motor sledges may be used only with the permission of the Forest Research Institute (This does not apply to reindeer owners in the performance of their job).
- Planes may not land in the area.

THE FELL CABINS

- are intended only as overnight accommodation on the open side of the cabins. First-comers must make room for later arrivals.
- Be tidy.
- Use firewood sparingly.
- Be careful with fires.

THE FINNISH FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Tel. 90/661 401

The experimental area of Pallasjärvi

Tel. 996/8327

The visitor center

Tel.996/1451



From the ...

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