

Torbjørn Ekelund

A Year of Birds. Ornithological Field Notes from My Immediate Surroundings

Fuglenes år. Ornitologiske feltnotater fra mine nærmeste omgivelser

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Sometimes you discover something new, or see something familiar in a new way. The space expands. The world gets bigger. A curtain is pulled aside, and you see into a parallel universe.

With these words, a journey begins. Not across continents, but into the small things that surrounds us. When epilepsy forced journalist and amateur ornithologist Torbjørn Ekelund to abandon his plans for a globe-spanning bird book, his world shrank to the local woods of Maridalen, his garden, and a small cabin by the sea. But in that shrinking, something expanded.

Told through a series of diary entries over the course of a year, *A Year of Birds* follows Ekelund's growing awareness of the birds around him. At the beginning of the year, he knows almost nothing about birds. By the end of the year, he knows a little more. He watches blackbirds and bullfinches, observes gulls and geese, and lets the ordinary transform into the extraordinary through simple, sustained attention.

This is a book about birds but also about perception, limitation, and the beauty of staying still. It is about discovering nature not in far-off landscapes, but right where you are. With warmth, humour, and a quiet existential undertone, *A Year of Birds* invites us to look more closely, live more attentively and see the world anew.



Photo: NORLA / Sabine Felber

Torbjørn Ekelund (b. 1971) is a writer, author and part owner of the online magazine *Harvest*. His books have been translated into ten languages, including English, German, Spanish and Mandarin. He was awarded the The Banff Mountain Adventure Travel Award for *A Year in the Woods*.

Awards

The Banff Mountain Adventure Travel Award 2022

Previous titles

In Praise of Paths (Stiens historie), 2018
The Boy and the Mountain (Gutten og fjellet), 2017
A Year in the Woods (Året i skogen), 2014

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