

The Private Life of the Naturalist

There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot.
(Leopold, 1968 p: vii)



Aims of my Lecture

- To draw to your attention a form of engagement with the nonhuman world that animal studies largely neglects
- To propose that sociology and other disciplines should be adventurous and expand their view to include all aspects of the nonhuman world
- To stimulate your academic interest in the outdoors and wildlife

Biography

Steve Birks

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Horticulturalist

Naturalist?

Adolescent Sociologist

The Everyday Life of a Nature Reserve

Lower Woods Nature Reserve

Fieldwork - Methodology

Theoretical Framework: *Habitus*, *Dwelling*
and *Affordance*

Findings

The Reserve and a Work Party



Autoethnography

Personal Troubles and Public Issues

“Troubles occur within the character of the individual and within the range of his[sic] immediate relation with others”

“Issues have to do with matters that transcend these local environments of the individual and the range of his[sic] inner life”

(Mills, 2000 [1959] p: 8)

The Concrete Bridge Bird

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*



Wild Service Trees *Sorbus torminalis*



The Silver-washed Fritillaries

Argynnis paphia



Findings

From my study I have discovered that the concepts of habitus, dwelling and affordance can contribute to understanding both *personal troubles* and *public Issues*

- Habitus: Bourdieu, (1977). Wacquant, (2004). Desmond,(2007).
- Dwelling: Ingold, (1993).
- Affordance: Gibson, (1986).

References

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