

ÅEN
THE SMALL RIVER

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Åen

Her om vinteren hører jeg den velkendte stemme hver formiddag. Højt hen over byen kommer en flok sangsvaner flyvende i formation. Sangen, afstanden og positionen mellem de store fugle er den samme dag efter dag.

Hver dag er retningen for deres færd også den samme. Sangsvanerne har overnattet ude i den store mose mod øst, og nu er de på vej til det sted ved åen, hvor det er godt at fouragere.

Det er altid en god oplevelse at tage ud til åen. Stilheden ude i engene, hvor der de fleste vinterdage kun høres naturens lyde. Det stille, strømmende vand nede i åen har en beroligende virkning på sindet. Det er en god fornemmelse at finde en plads på åens bred og så bare sidde og stirre på det strømmende vand og lytte til naturens lyde.

I mange årtier har de lokale landbrug udnyttet jordene helt ud til åens kant. Men den tid er snart forbi. Om få år må vi forvente, at engene langs åen er tilbage i deres naturlige pragt igen. Det er ikke længere rentabelt at dyrke disse for landbruget så marginale jorder, men for naturen så vitale jorder.

I år er sangsvanernes yndlingssted at fouragere oplagt. Nogle få står på en stubmark og leder efter de korn, som landmandens maskiner har tabt, men den store flok sopper rundt i mudderet på det, der en gang var en kartoffelmark.

Det har været en våd sommer, så landmandens maskiner var for tunge til at køre ud og høste kartoflerne. Nu bliver de i stedet grådig fundet og ædt af de store hvide fugle.

The small river

In winter, I hear the well-known voice every morning. High above the village, a bunch of singing whooper swans come flying in formation. Day after day the song, distance and position between the big birds is the same.

Every day, the direction of their journey is also the same. The singing swans have spent the night out in the great bog to the east, and now they are on their way to the place by the small river, where it is good to forage.

It is always a good experience to make a visit to the small river. The silence in the meadows, where most winter days only the sounds of nature is heard. The quiet, flowing water down in the small river has a calming effect on the mind. It is a good feeling to find a place on the riverside and then just sit and stare at the flowing water and listen to the sounds of nature.

For many decades, local farms have used the land to the edge of the river. But that time is coming to an end. Within a few years, we must expect the meadows along the river again to be back in their scenic beauty. For agriculture such marginal lands are no longer profitable to cultivate, but for nature the meadows are so vital land.

This year, the favourite place of the whooper swans to forage is obvious. A few stands on a stubble field looking for the grains, that the farmer's machines have lost, but the large herd of swan's paddle around in the mud of what once was a potato field.

It has been a wet summer, so the farmer's machines were too heavy to harvest the potatoes on the wet field. Instead, the potatoes greedily are found and eaten by the great white birds.



Lindborg Å, Himmerland, februar 2020

The small river Lindborg Å, Himmerland, February 2020



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KOLOFON

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: The small river
By Keld Jensen*

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