

Chapter 6:

PRODUCING



The environment in which data were collected during the two field seasons of the spring of 2015 and 2020 is complex and multidimensional. During fieldwork, the biologists and I were immersed in the habitat of the Siberian jays in the boreal forest of Arvidsjaur in Sweden. Here, the birds live among trees, bushes, rivers, bridges, marshlands, paths, mushrooms, lichen, moss, and snow. They witness the different seasons and are exposed to the environment. Occasionally, they fall prey to the surroundings with which they are entangled. The trees serve as spaces to build nests and raise offspring under the protection of the branches, while the berries, seeds, nuts, worms, spiders, and insects serve as nutrition. In winter, the jays become hoarders and store their food in the bark of the trees; one bird remembering several hundred hideaways. In summer, the forest protects them from predators, but in winter, the brown-orange birds stand out against the white snow, making survival more difficult, especially in scarcely vegetated or deforested landscapes.¹ Aspects of this multiplicity and ecological entanglement become visible as material traces in the raw data. In the field notebooks, one can see the marks of raindrops that had fallen onto the pages and the remnants of midges that could not escape before the notebook was shut.

¹ Layton-Matthews, Ozgul, and Griesser, "The Interacting Effects of Forestry and Climate Change on the Demography of a Group-Living Bird Population".