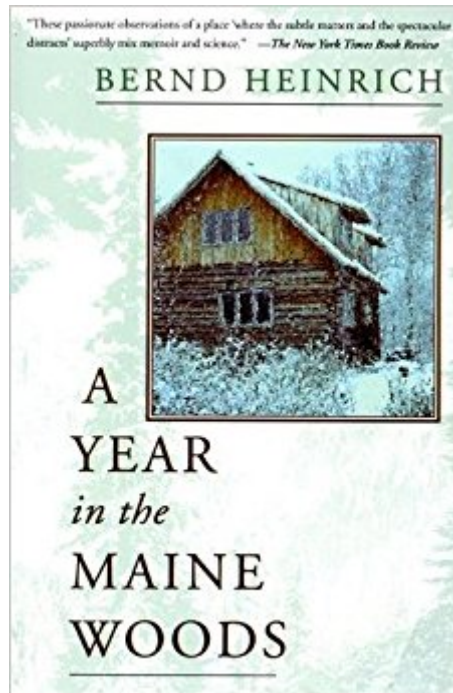




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# A Year In The Maine Woods



## Synopsis

Escapist fantasies usually involve the open road, but Bernd Heinrich's dream was to focus on the riches of one small place—a few green acres along Alder Brook just east of the Presidential Mountains. The year begins as he settles into a cabin with no running water and no electricity, built of hand-cut logs he dragged out of the woods with a team of oxen. There, alone except for his pet raven, Jack, he rediscovers the meaning of peace and quiet and harmony with nature—of days spent not filling out forms, but tracking deer, or listening to the sound of a moth's wings. Throughout this year when the subtle matters and the spectacular distract, Heinrich brings us back to the drama in small things, when life is lived consciously. His story is that of a man rediscovering what it means to be alive.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A professor of zoology at the University of Vermont, Heinrich here recounts a recent year he spent in the western Maine wilderness. With his pet raven Jack, he began his sojourn at the end of May. His cabin, without electricity or plumbing, sat in a clearing a half-mile up a steep brush-filled hill accessible only to four-wheel-drive vehicles. His mailbox was at the foot of the trail, and his nearest neighbors lived on the road beyond the mailbox. To keep in touch with family and friends, Heinrich, author of the National Book Award nominee *Bumblebee Economics*, installed a phone and answering machine in the neighbors' outhouse. He takes us through his busy summer and fall of chopping wood and making repairs to the cabin, all the while observing the wildlife around him. He battles with blackflies and mosquitos, mice and cluster flies. In January he conducts an on-site

seminar for selected students. For readers who love the outdoors, even vicariously. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

Heinrich, a zoology professor at the University of Vermont and the author of *Ravens in Winter* (LJ 8/89), has written an engaging book about his year of solitude in the southern Maine forest. Recalling Thoreau, he retires to a self-constructed log cabin, without electricity or running water, to study and write. Heinrich's account of the year is divided into four sections, one for each season, beginning with the summer that he set out for his cabin with his pet raven, Jack. Each section consists of small vignettes-some dated, as if from the author's journal, others lessons in biology, ecology, or astronomy. It is a tribute to his writing skill that the author quickly draws the reader into his world. From retrieving the spikes left by some Earth First! activists to making maple syrup to hauling dead calves into the woods for the ravens to feed on, Heinrich is consistently busy, yet he always finds time to run, rest, and meditate on the lessons the forest has to teach. This is a gem of a book. Recommended. Randy Dykhuis, OHIONET, Columbus Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio Cassette edition.

One more of Bernd Heinrich books about crows. If anyone is an expert on crows it certainly is he. Who knew of the exceptional intelligence of these unusual black bird. They have taken on a perceived role as dark denizens of the forest. Edger Allen Poe, in a line from his poetry, made famous the oft said line "quoth the raven never more!" Since then ravens have wrongfully been cast as sinister beasts. That couldn't be more wrong. Read the book and see why?

I have read several of Heinrich's books and 'A Year in the Maine Woods' is maybe my favorite. Nicely written and covering a range of topics, the book did not disappoint me. Those that love nature and the outdoors have probably dreamed of taking an extended time away to take it all in, Heinrich does just that. Five stars from me.

A very good naturalist who also writes well.

This was the intro book for me to Heinrichs. It's a masterpiece.

One of our favorite books since moving to Maine in 2010. Thank you Bernd Heinrich to our introduction to Maine and the Raven's lifestyle. In the past 5 years since downloading this book both

my husband and I have read this book several times. A Year In the Maine Woods will stay in my Kindle Library forever just so we can reread it again. This book has inspired us to branch out and discover all different types of birds, wildlife, vegetation and trees that we have never seen before since coming from the Pacific Northwest.

Not planning to review this book, I changed my mind after perusing the reviews for "A Year in the Maine Woods." Most of them are by people who miss the point of his book (and, dare I say, life) entirely. Yes, Bernd is foremost a Zoologist, and so does get a bit technical at times, but his over-whelming love of nature--and the sense that he's just a good guy doing what many of us are afraid to do (i.e. kick in our TeeVees and "get back to nature")--is enough for my vote. In addition to the natural science found in these pages, I very much enjoyed his mundane, day-to-day observations (every time he made coffee or drank a beer, I inwardly smiled). He mixes his love for the woods with a few 21st-century earthly pleasures, as well he should. Of course he's no Thoreau, and I don't think he is in anyway trying to be. Still, he's a damn-sight closer to Nature and the ideas and mind of H.D.T than most. Truly a pleasurable read. Thanks, Bernd.

Book was in great shape just as advertised!

Book was very interesting. The authors observations of nature are enlightening.

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