



Sample

Wildlife in Woods and Fields

Arabella Buckley

WILDLIFE IN WOODS AND FIELDS

BY ARABELLA B. BUCKLEY
(Mrs Fisher)

EDITED
BY RACHEL E. NORTH

With Eight Full Page Coloured
Plates and other Illustrations



CHARLOTTE MASON BEEHIVE
MELTON MOWBRAY

Sample

This edition, its introduction, and new material,
© Copyright 2021, Charlotte Mason Beehive.

This edition of 'Wildlife in Woods and Fields' is a brand new transcription,
prepared and edited by Rachel North, for the exclusive use of Charlotte
Mason Beehive. It is based off original scans of the twentieth century publication,
which has now entered the public domain.

Cover design by James North

Front cover art—*Bosgezicht (Forest view)*, by Johannes Warnardus
Bilders (1811 -1890)

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced
or used in any manner whatsoever without prior written permission from the publisher.

Charlotte Mason Beehive
charlottesmasonbeehive.co.uk

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW EDITION

MS. ARABELLA BUCKLEY'S *Eyes and No Eyes* Series is well-known in Charlotte Mason circles due to their wide usage by the P.N.E.U. (Parents' National Educational Union). Miss Charlotte Mason, founder of the P.N.E.U., assigned one of Ms. Buckley's delightful nature readers every term for students in Form I. Written for children they describe the wonders of nature—the wildlife; flora and fauna—in simple language, essentially awakening the child's interest in the subject matter and guiding them towards what to look for when out and about on their walks each day.

As Ms. Buckley explains in the preface to her nature readers:

“These books are intended to interest children in country life. They are written in the simplest language, so as to be fit for each class to read aloud. But the information given in them requires explanation and illustration by the teacher. I have, in fact, tried to make each lesson the groundwork for oral teaching, in the course of which the children should be encouraged to observe, to bring in specimens, and to ask questions. Then when the chapter is read and re-read (EDITOR'S NOTE—Miss Mason did not permit the re-reading of lesson books within the parameters of a school lesson. Children who are particularly enchanted by the subject matter may re-read at their leisure once narration is out of the way), as is the case with most school books, it will become part of the child's own knowledge.”

Wildlife in Woods and Fields is the first in the series, although by no means do the books require reading in any particular sequence.

Containing lessons on a variety of subjects such as flowers, moles, cats, spiders, ants, and more, this book provides an enjoyable introduction to natural history for the young child.

The short chapters lend well to an authentic Charlotte Mason education, with just ten minutes a week required in order to read the book over one term.

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THIS EDITION?

1. Updated for Twenty-First Century students:-

Treating the text with great respect, we have occasionally made careful edits where deemed necessary, such as to correct factual errors, or to clarify information.

The edits in this book are extremely minor and do not mar the original content or intentions of this book as set out by the author in the late nineteenth century.

2. Footnotes:-

We highly recommend the picture-book companion Natural History Pictures for a Living Education: *Wildlife in Woods and Fields* as a complement to your students' natural history studies. Designed to be used alongside the reading of this book, the versatile resource is made up almost entirely of pictures and photographs, as they relate directly to the topics read about in the natural history lessons for this unit.

To maximise its efficiency and to avoid any extra prep work by parents and teachers, footnotes are littered throughout *Wildlife in Woods and Fields*, indicating when a picture is available to supplement the text.

All the pictures are numbered and they are referenced in the lesson text as follows:

Natural History Pictures: Wildlife in Woods and Fields, p. 15. No. 21.

We sincerely hope you find these additional edits and resources helpful, and that you will have a pleasant and engaging school year learning natural history with your students. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us through our website at charlottesmasonbeehive.co.uk.

RACHEL E. NORTH,
July 2021

Sample

PREFACE

THESE books are intended to interest children in country life. They are written in the simplest language, so as to be fit for each class to read aloud. But the information given in them requires explanation and illustration by the teacher. I have, in fact, tried to make each lesson the groundwork for oral teaching, in the course of which the children should be encouraged to observe, to bring in specimens, and to ask questions. Then when the chapter is read and re-read, as is the case with most school books, it will become part of the child's own knowledge.

No one can be more aware than I am how very slight these outlines are, and how much more might have been given if space permitted. But I hope that much is *suggested*, and a teacher who loves nature will fill in the gaps.

The charming illustrations will enable the children to identify the animals and plants mentioned.

ARABELLA B. BUCKLEY
(MRS. FISHER)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction to the New Edition.....	3
Preface.....	6
Introduction.....	9
Spiders on the Common.....	9
The Woodpecker's Nest.....	13
Spring Flowers.....	16
A Family of Squirrels.....	19
The Skylark and her Enemy.....	22
Nuts and Nut Eaters.....	25
The Mouse and the Shrew.....	28
The Ant Hill.....	31
The Bumble Bee's Nest.....	34
Peter's Cat.....	37
The Greedy Stranger.....	41
The Mole and his Home.....	43

Sample

INTRODUCTION

WE three friends, Peter, Peggy, and Paul, walk to school together every day. We all love flowers and animals, and each day we try to find something new.

Peter is a little boy. He can only just read. But he has sharp eyes. He sees most things in the hedges. Peggy's father is a gamekeeper. She knows the birds and where to find their nests. Paul comes from the farm. He is a big boy and will soon be a teacher.

We meet at the big pond under the elm trees. Then we walk along a narrow lane, across the common, through the wood, and over three fields to the village school.

In the pond we find all kinds of creatures. In the lane are beetles and mice, flowers and berries, birds' nests and wasps' nests. On the common the spiders spin their webs on the yellow gorse. In the ploughed field the lark hides her nest. In the grass field there are buttercups and daisies. In the cornfield there are poppies and cornflowers.

Paul is going to write down for us all we see and put it in a book.

LESSON I.

SPIDERS ON THE COMMON

WHEN we cross the common on a fine summer morning, we see many spiders' webs sparkling in the sun. The webs on the gorse bushes are round. They are fastened to the gorse prickles by long silk threads, and each web has spokes like a wheel.¹ These spokes are joined together with rings of silk. There are drops of gum all over the rings. It is these drops which sparkle like diamonds, and make the web so pretty.

1 Natural History Pictures: Wildlife in Woods and Fields, p. 7. No. 01.

The spider spins a little tent in the centre of the web. In this tent she hides, till some insect flies against the gummy threads. Then she feels the web shake, and darts out to catch the fly before it breaks the threads.

We saw a little bee today fly right against the web on the gorse bush. Out came the spider from her tent. She bit the bee with her sharp fangs, tore off its wings, and then sat and sucked the juice out of its body.²

Paul caught her, while she was busy, and showed us the two fangs with sharp points, which hang down in front of her head. Above them are her eight eyes, four large ones and four small ones. She has eight legs with such strange claws! Each one is like a comb. What do you think they are for? She uses them to guide the silk threads as she makes her web.³



HEAD, LEG, CLAW, AND SPINNERETS OF A SPIDER, MUCH
MAGNIFIED.

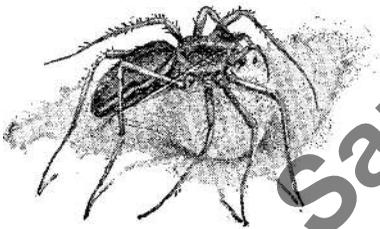
2 Natural History Pictures: Wildlife in Woods and Fields, p. 7. No. 02.

3 Natural History Pictures: Wildlife in Woods and Fields, p. 8. Nos. 03 & 04.

We turned her on her back and saw, under her body, six little pockets, out of which she pulls the silk. It comes out through tiny holes. She draws it through the combs on her legs, and so makes her web as she runs along.

Besides the webs on the gorse, there are webs all over the common close to the ground. These are not made with spokes like the round webs. The threads are mixed up like wool. For a long time we could not find the spider. At last one day Paul said, "Here is a hole right in the middle of the web. It goes down into the ground."⁴

This hole was lined with silk threads. Just then a beetle crawled on to the web, and shook it. At once the spider darted out from the tunnel in the ground and seized the beetle. She was so quick that she had carried him down into her hole before we could catch her.



WOLF SPIDER WITH HER EGG
BAG.

There are many spiders on the common which do not create webs, though they spin silk which they use to create an entrance to their burrows.

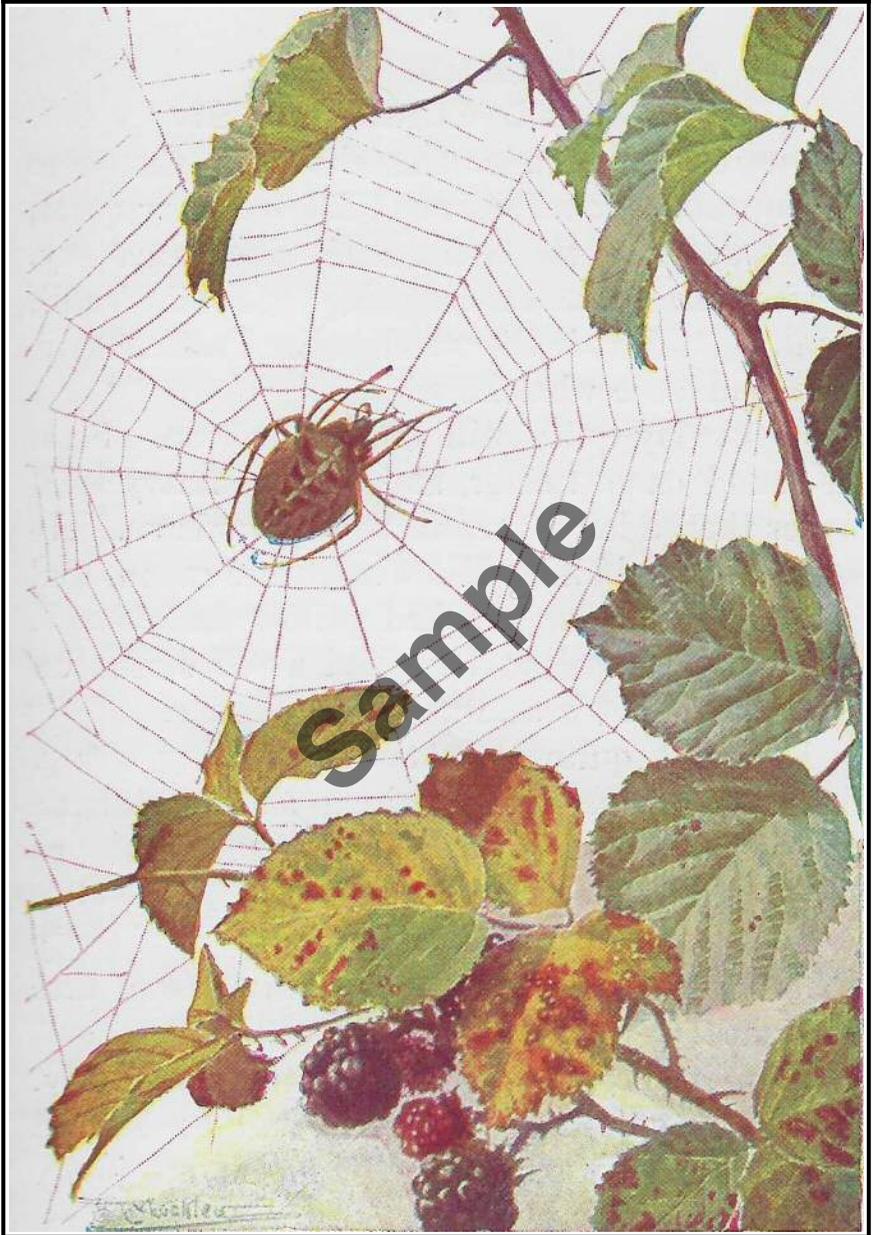
They spring on the flies and beetles on the ground and are called "wolf spiders."⁵

The mother wolf spiders carry their eggs about with them in a round bag.⁶ Peter caught one of these as she was running along with this white ball under her body. He took the ball away and put it on the ground. When he let her go, she ran up and seized it. He took it away three times. Each time she caught it up again, and at last ran away before we could catch her.

4 Natural History Pictures: Wildlife in Woods and Fields, p. 8. No. 05.

5 Natural History Pictures: Wildlife in Woods and Fields, p. 9. No. 06.

6 Natural History Pictures: Wildlife in Woods and Fields, p. 9. No. 07.



A GARDEN SPIDER AND BLACKBERRY BRANCH