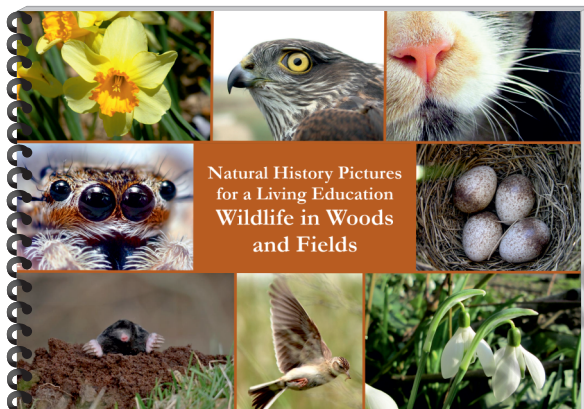




Wildlife in Woods and Fields

Arabella Buckley

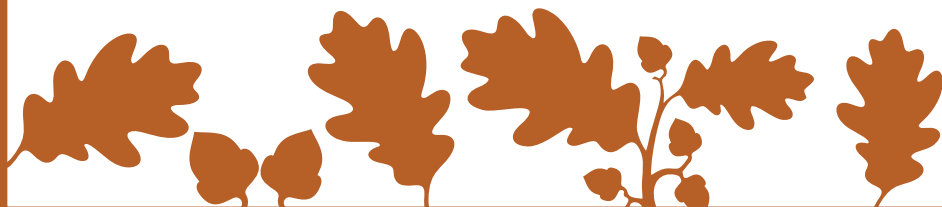
Natural History Pictures for a Living Education: Wildlife in Woods and Fields



Natural History Pictures for a Living Education is a unique picture book series which aims to enhance students' learning and arouse interest in the wonders and phenomena of the natural world, as read about in their natural history lesson books. Orchestrated to enliven and enhance the quest for natural knowledge in the home schoolroom, *Natural History Pictures for a Living Education: Wildlife in Woods and Fields* features over eighty photographs and illustrations of wildlife; flora and fauna; spiders; birds; and much more.

Arranged primarily—but not exclusively—for home educators using the Charlotte Mason philosophy of education, this book is intended to be used alongside the reading of *Wildlife in Woods and Fields*, by Arabella Buckley, as published by Charlotte Mason Beehive. All pictures are related to the narrative of the Form I Natural History reader and footnotes are littered throughout the lesson book text to highlight when a particular image is available to enhance the lesson.

Brought to you exclusively by Charlotte Mason Beehive, *Natural History Pictures for a Living Education* is an off-shoot from *History Pictures for a Living Education*, a series designed to bring history to life for students and young people studying the events of the past, which itself is based off Black's *History Pictures*, a series published by A. & C. Black in the early twentieth century and recommended by Miss Charlotte Mason of the P.N.E.U. (Parents' National Educational Union).



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

Wildlife in Woods and Fields,
by Arabella Buckley

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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.

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Bilders (1811 -1890)

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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:

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

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)

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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

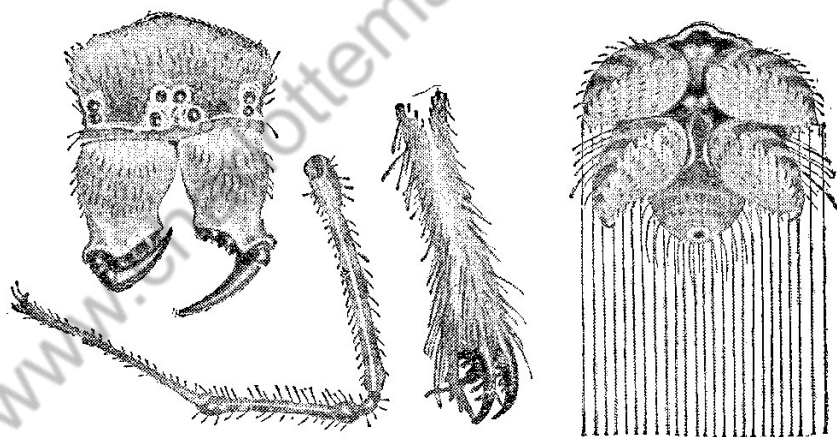
WHEN we cross the common on a fine summer morning, we see many spiders' webs sparkling in the sun. The webs on the gorse bushes are round. They are fastened to the gorse prickles by long silk threads, and each web has spokes like a wheel.¹ These spokes are joined together with rings of silk. There are 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.

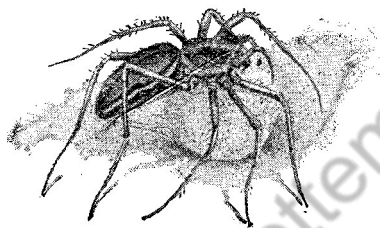
2 Natural History Pictures: Wildlife in Woods and Fields, p. 7. No. 02.

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

LESSON II.

THE WOODPECKER'S NEST

WE were lying under the shade of the trees in the wood one afternoon. All was very quiet, when suddenly we heard such a strange cry. It was like someone laughing, "Yaffil, Yaffil, Yaffil." "That is the woodpecker," said Peggy. "Wait and see what he will do."

So we lay quite still under the tree. Soon the sound came nearer, and a great heavy bird, bigger than a large thrush, flew towards us. He was a beautiful bird. His wings were green, and so was his breast, though paler in shade. He had yellow on his tail. His head was red, and he had a red streak on his throat. His beak was long and grey.⁷

He came quite close to us, hopping along. Then he stopped, and a long shining tongue came out of his mouth, and went back so quickly that we could scarcely see it.

"He is eating ants," said Peggy. "The tip of his tongue is sticky and he draws them into his mouth."⁸

Then he began to climb the tree so funnily.⁹ His tail is quite stiff and wiry, and he bent it against the tree, and pushed himself up, jump, jump, holding on with his sharp hooked toes. He jumped first to the right, then to the left. Then he ran round the tree and came out on the other side.

All the while he was trying the bark with his beak. Tap, tap, tap. At last he found a soft spot. Then he tore off the bark and ate the grubs, which had made the tree rotten in that place. After this he came down the tree again.

7 Natural History Pictures: Wildlife in Woods and Fields, p. 10. No. 08.

8 Natural History Pictures: Wildlife in Woods and Fields, p. 11. Nos. 09 & 10.

9 Natural History Pictures: Wildlife in Woods and Fields, p. 12. No. 11.