

SIMPLE STUDIES

# SAMPLE

## BURGESS BIRDS

A SIMPLE STUDIES™ GUIDE



SIMPLE STUDIES™  
A Living Science Handbook for K-4 Students  
BY CRYSTAL WILEY

S I M P L E   S T U D I E S

SAMPLE

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# Materials Needed for Entire Study

You can find these books at the library, but they are recommended for your personal library as you will need them for the entire course of this study:

- ❑ ***The Burgess Bird Book for Children*** by Thornton Burgess (*While we like to have a tangible copy on hand, you can find a free version (audio and download) on LibriVox.com*)
- ❑ **Nature Journal or Sketchbook** (*one per student*)
- ❑ **Field Guide** (*Recommended*) If you're unsure of which guide would work best for your students, I highly recommend visiting a bookstore and viewing bird field guides in person. Field Guides I personally recommend:
  - ❑ ***Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America*** by Kenn Kaufman
  - ❑ ***Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America, Second Edition*** by Roger Tory Peterson
  - ❑ ***The Sibley Guide to Birds, 2nd Edition*** by David Allen Sibley
  - ❑ ***The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America*** (*wonderful images but more difficult to find the type of bird you're looking for*)
- ❑ **Bird Coloring Pages** (*print off copies for each student*)
- ❑ **Quality Coloring Pencils** (*Recommended: Prismacolor*)

*“The children keep a dated record of what they see in their nature note-books, which are left to their own management and are not corrected. These note-books are a source of pride and joy, and are freely illustrated by drawings (brushwork) of twig, flower, insect, etc.”*  
(Charlotte Mason, *School Education*, p. 236)

# Suggested Schedule for a Year of Study

There are 45 lessons total. If you do two lessons per week, you'll finish this study in 26 weeks. You may only get to one lesson each week. You may get to four lessons. It's entirely up to you. I have a recommended schedule below that offers a breakdown of two lessons each week with week 4 being your catch-up week.

The important thing to remember is that you control your curriculum – your curriculum should never control you or your students. So be at peace going at your own pace.

Week 1: Lessons 1 and 2

Week 2: Lessons 3 and 4

Week 3: Lessons 5 and 6

Week 4: Catch Up, Lesson 7 and Review 1

Week 5: Lessons 8 and 9

Week 6: Lessons 10 and 11

Week 7: Lessons 12 and 13

Week 8: Catch Up and Lesson 14

Week 9: Lessons 15 and 16 (*outdoor observation encouraged*)

Week 10: Lessons 17 and 18

Week 11: Lessons 19 and 20

Week 12: Catch Up, Lesson 21 and Review 2

Week 13: Lessons 22 and 23

Week 14: Lessons 24 and 25

Week 15: Lessons 26 and 27

Week 16: Catch Up and Lesson 28

Week 17: Lessons 29 and 30 (*outdoor observation encouraged*)

Week 18: Lessons 31 and 32

Week 19: Lessons 33 and 34

Week 20: Catch Up, Lesson 35 and Review 3

Week 21: Lessons 36 and 37

Week 22: Lessons 38 and 39

Week 23: Lesson 40 and 41

Week 24: Catch up and Lesson 42

Week 25: Lesson 43 and 44

Week 26: Lesson 45 and Final Review (*outdoor observation encouraged*)



# Picture Booklist by Lesson

There are a plethora of wonderful picture books featuring birds around the world but the books listed below offer the opportunity for students to build *joyful relations through story specifically with the birds Burgess tells us about.*

*\*Please note while I researched books for hours trying to adhere to the living book recommendations, several books do not fit into this category and were chosen for their childlike, whimsical prose and overall message featuring North American birds in each lesson. I tried to offer more than one suggestion should you be unable to secure them all at your local library. Sadly, many of the classical bird books are now out of print.*

**HELPFUL TIP:** *I recommend gathering the picture books from the library for the first 8 lessons before you begin Lesson 1.*

## Lesson 1:

- The Eagle and the Wren* by Jane Goodall

## Lesson 2:

- The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon* by Jacqueline Davies
- Sparrows* by Hans Post & Kees Heij

## Lesson 3:

- Bird Builds a Nest: A First Science Storybook* by Martin Jenkins
- The Very Worried Sparrow* by Meryl Doney

## Lesson 4:

- Sparrow Girl* by Sara Pennypacker (*fascinating story about a war with Sparrows in China with a twist in the end*).
- City Birds: A Rookie Reader* by Heather MacLeod

## Lesson 5:

- This is the Nest that Robin Built* by Denise Fleming
- The Story of the Easter Robin* by Dandi Daley Mackall
- Robins!: How They Grow Up* by Eileen Christelow (*I could do without the multiple exclamation points in this book but it's still a useful book nonetheless*)
- Bluebird* by Bob Staake
- The Robot and the Bluebird* by David Lucas
- Fly!* by Mark Teague

# Burgess Birds: A Simple Studies Guide

## Lessons

### Lesson 1

#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *The Burgess Bird Book for Children*
- Field Guide
- *Birds Coloring Pages (provided) (one per student)*
- Colored Pencils
- Picture Books see below (*optional*)
- Emily Dickinson's Poem (*provided*)(*optional*)

**(optional) Read aloud Emily Dickinson's poem, "Hope is the Thing with Feathers."** Consider having students memorize this poem (*regular prompts will be provided*).

Read together, *The Burgess Bird Book for Children*, chapter 1, "Jenny Wren Arrives," and ask for an oral narration. Let your students color the picture of the House Wren on page 1 in the *Bird Coloring Pages (provided)*.

**Older Students:** Introduce the Bird Field Guide you will be using throughout this study to your students. Demonstrate how to locate specific bird species in the alphabetized index section of the guide. Let students know they have unrestricted access to utilize the guide to further their study and use a constant resource.

#### ADDITIONAL NOTE

*\*In our experience, older students often begin to ask to use the field guide as a reference when using their nature journals. Try not to force older students too quickly in the journey of discovering more about each bird. Generally speaking, the longer they listen to the story, and if we as instructors model researching habits by keeping the field guide handy for reference for backyard birds, the more interested they become and will eventually begin researching birds they're naturally most curious about without our assistance.*

**Picture Book for Lesson 1: *The Eagle and the Wren* by Jane Goodall**

# Lesson 3

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *The Burgess Bird Book for Children*
- Field Guide
- *Birds Coloring Pages (provided) (one per student)*
- Nature Journal (*one per student*)
- Colored Pencils
- Picture Books see below (*optional*)
- *Handbook of Nature Study (optional)*
- Emily Dickinson's Poem (*provided*)(*optional*)
- Computer (*optional*)

**(optional) Read aloud Emily Dickinson's poem aloud.**

Ask the students what they recall from last time's reading about Bully the English Sparrow.

Read together, *The Burgess Bird Book for Children*, chapter 3, "Jenny Has a Good Word For Some Sparrows," and ask for an oral narration. Let your students color the picture of the Song Sparrow on page 3 of the *Bird Coloring Pages (provided)*.

**Older Students:** Using a field guide, have students look up the Song, White-throated and Fox Sparrows. Let students choose which one to draw in their nature journal, making sure to record and label their findings.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:** Listen to multiple Sparrow calls:

[https://www.audubon.org/search\\_results?search=song%20sparrow](https://www.audubon.org/search_results?search=song%20sparrow)

**Handbook of Nature Study (optional):** Page 89.

**Picture Books for Lesson 3:** *Bird Builds a Nest: A First Science Storybook* by Martin Jenkins, *The Very Worried Sparrow* by Meryl Doney



# Lesson 9

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *The Burgess Bird Book for Children*
- Field Guide
- *Birds Coloring Pages (provided) (one per student)*
- Nature Journal (*one per student*)
- Colored Pencils
- Picture Books see below (*optional*)
- *Handbook of Nature Study (optional)*
- Emily Dickinson's Poem (*provided*)(*optional*)
- Computer (*optional*)

**(optional) Read aloud Emily Dickinson's poem.** Continue memorization and recitation.

Ask the students what they recall from last time's reading about Peewee and the different types of birds nests.

Read together, *The Burgess Bird Book for Children*, chapter 9, "Longbill and Teeter," and ask for an oral narration. Ask students if they've ever witnessed one of these unique birds in person, perhaps at the seashore. Let your students color the picture of the Woodcock on page 9 of the *Bird Coloring Pages (provided)*.

**Older students:** Using a field guide, have students look up the Spotted Sandpiper and Woodcock. Let students choose which one(s) to draw in their nature journal, making sure to record and label their findings.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:** Take a look at the last known Woodcock Migration map available to us (2020): <https://www.woodcockmigration.org/migration.html>

**Handbook of Nature Study (optional):** Page 142 (Birds of the Marsh and Shore).

**Picture Books for Lesson 9:** *Sandpipers* by Edith Thacher Hurd, *Woody Woodcock* by R. W. Eschmeyer

# Lesson 17

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *The Burgess Bird Book for Children*
- Field Guide
- *Birds Coloring Pages (provided) (one per student)*
- Nature Journal *(one per student)*
- Colored Pencils
- Picture Books see below *(optional)*
- *Handbook of Nature Study (optional)*
- Emily Dickinson's Poem *(provided)(optional)*

***(optional)*** Read aloud Emily Dickinson's poem. Ask students to begin reciting as much of the poem as possible on their own.

Ask the students what they recall from last time's reading about Forktail the Barn Swallow and Twitter the Martin.

Read together, *The Burgess Bird Book for Children*, chapter 17, "More Robbers," and ask for an oral narration. Let your students color the picture of the Blue Jay on page 17 of the *Bird Coloring Pages (provided)*.

**Older Students:** Using a field guide, have students look up the Crow and Blue Jay. Let students choose which one(s) to draw in their nature journal, making sure to record and label their findings. Not only do we want to encourage students to look up Latin names and migration patterns, but to use maps to identify whether or not the student has the opportunity to witness these birds in their own state can be also helpful.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:** Short Video: How Smart are Crows?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2IBayVsbz8>

**Handbook of Nature Study (optional):** Page 124.

**Picture Books for Lesson 17:** *Crow Boy* by Taro Yashima, *Crow Not Crow* by Jane Yolen, *Hello, Crow* by Candace Savage, *Rainbow Crow* by Nancy Van *(based on a Native American legend)*



# The Oven Bird

by Robert Frost

There is a singer everyone has heard,  
Loud, a mid-summer and a mid-wood bird,  
Who makes the solid tree trunks sound again.  
He says that leaves are old and that for flowers  
Mid-summer is to spring as one to ten.  
He says the early petal-fall is past  
When pear and cherry bloom went down in showers  
On sunny days a moment overcast;  
And comes that other fall we name the fall.  
He says the highway dust is over all.  
The bird would cease and be as other birds  
But that he knows in singing not to sing.  
The question that he frames in all but words  
Is what to make of a diminished thing.

# What Does Little Birdie Say?

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

What does little birdie say

In her nest at peep of day?

“Let me fly,” says little birdie,

“Mother, let me fly away.”

“Birdie, rest a little longer,

Till the little wings are stronger.”

So she rests a little longer,

Then she flies away.

What does little baby say,

In her bed at peep of day?

Baby says, like little birdie,

“Let me rise and fly away.”

“Baby sleep, a little longer,

Till the little limbs are stronger.”

If she sleeps a little longer,

Baby too shall fly away.

# BURGESS BIRDS

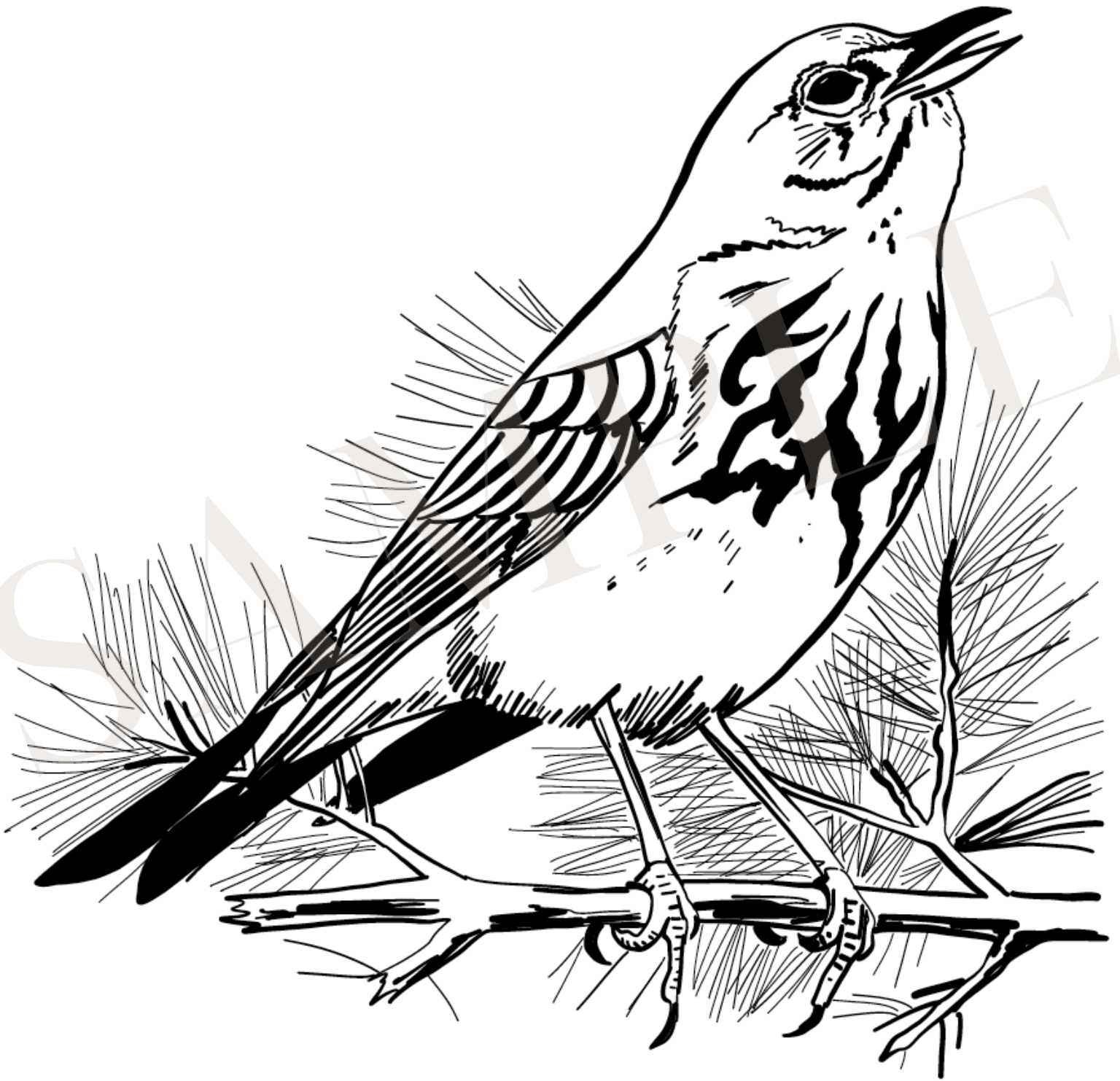
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COLORING PAGES

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NAME



**Hermit Thrush**





**Screech Owl**



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## THE BURGESS BIRD BOOK FOR CHILDREN

Thornton W. Burgess





# TESTIMONIALS

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*I have been searching for a few years for the right addition to our morning time. I needed something that has poetry, reading, Biblical principles and nature oriented lessons. I would find something but become overwhelmed by the amount of "fluff" and extra content. These studies are so feasible and attainable and have added a wonderful component to our Charlotte Mason homeschool! My only problem is choosing which one to do next!!!! Love them all!!! - Katie Woodruff*

OUR KIDS RECENTLY FINISHED YOUR JUNGLE STUDY AND REALLY ENJOYED IT. :) — GENEVIEVE D.

*We've used your guides from the beginning, gosh, so many years ago. I love how you take the cream off the top of so many different curriculum and put it together in a way that's custom fit for your family. - Miette Allison*

I LOVE YOUR STUDIES. I HAVE AN 8 AND 5 YEAR OLD AND WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING THROUGH THE FOREST ANIMALS GUIDE. IT'S SO FUN. - LYDIA JENKINS

*I like all of these guides because they're simple but interesting and give just enough further resources (links, booklists, ideas) to be fun without being overwhelming, an important factor for us! - @thesunrisemama*

TRULY LOVE YOUR PRODUCTS; THEY ARE A GREAT FIT FOR OUR FAMILY. I LOVE HOW THE LESSONS ARE SO FLEXIBLE. THEY CAN BE SHORT (JUST READING AND COLORING) OR WE CAN GO DOWN A RABBIT HOLE FOR THE AFTERNOON. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR CREATING THEM! — KÀRIN MANCINI

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*We did the Simple Studies Burgess Birds and it was our favorite homeschool study we've ever done! We have kids in 8th grade down to kindergarten and all my children enjoyed doing this study together. It's amazing to see each bird that they drew in their nature journal. I printed "how to draw" pages for my youngest sons so it gave them step by step instructions on how to draw each bird. They loved that. My young ones also loved the coloring pages! We were sad when the book came to an end. I would highly recommend this study and you can make it work with a variety of ages.*

– Claire Jones

US HISTORY IS FINALLY STARTING TO BE INTERESTING FOR MY 7 YEAR OLD. THANK YOU FOR CREATING AN INTERESTING, AFFORDABLE WAY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN TO LEARN ABOUT US HISTORY! – SARAH W.

*My daughters and I started with Among the Meadow People and I truly appreciate your simple studies. They are enjoying them and sharing facts with family. They loved how God created the robin with a pocket of oil for when it rains. Thank you for serving the homeschool community with your time and talent. – Nicole M*

JUST FINISHED COURAGE. WE LOVED IT! IT WAS OUR FIRST STUDY AND NOW I WANT TO BUY THEM ALL!! -MAGGIE MILLER

*I'm officially obsessed with your studies. They've been a life-giving presence in our homeschool this year & I'm so grateful to have found them. – Hannah Connor*

I AM SO PLEASED WITH WHAT I FOUND! I AM PLANNING ON INCORPORATING 3 OF THE SIMPLE STUDIES IN OUR YEAR. THEY ARE SO CUTE!! AND ARE GREAT FOR MY BROOD-- 8, 6, 3.5 AND 14 MONTHS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. – MARIA DOUGLASS



# CHECK OUT OUR OTHER PRODUCTS!

CMSIMPLESTUDIES.COM

