

possible pour bien faire comprendre aux enfants le rôle des abeilles. Serait-il avantageux de faire passer les mêmes informations de ce livre avec d'autres personnages, par exemple, d'autres abeilles de la ruche? C'est beaucoup d'informations à recueillir sur les abeilles avec si peu de personnages. Danièle Gallichand mérite que ce premier livre soit lu par de jeunes lecteurs car malgré les quelques recommandations suggérées dans ce compte-rendu, il y a intérêt à puiser de la matière intéressante sur la vie des abeilles. Ce livre est illustré d'une façon amusante et attrayante. Doris Barrette qui a fait les illustrations, respecte très bien l'histoire.

Marie-Soleil la jeune abeille se présente un peu comme une première oeuvre. Il y aurait quelques retouches à faire, mais sa présentation actuelle conserve sa valeur.

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BIRDS, BIRDS AND MORE BIRDS!

Have you seen birds? Joanne Oppenheim. Illus. Barbara Reid. Scholastic-TAB, 1986. 32 pp., \$4.95 paper. ISBN 0-590-71577-1; **The birds of Christmas.** Michael Pacey. Illus. Mary Firth. Three Trees Press, 1988 Unpag., \$4.95 paper. ISBN 0-88823-132-6; **Owls in North America.** Dr. Robert W. Nero, Aleta Karstad, Frederick W. Schueler. Illus. Aleta Karstad. Hyperion Press, 1987. 40 pp., \$4.95 paper. ISBN 0-920534-42-2; **Eyewitness Books: BIRD,** Dorling Kindersley, Illus. Carole Ash, Ed. Stoddart Publishing, 1988. 63 pp., \$14.95 cloth. ISBN 0-7737-2177-0.

A curiosity about birds does not come naturally to all young children, but an interest in the subject can be sparked through literature. For young children, Joanne Oppenheim's book *Have you seen birds?* introduces the physical features, habitats and behaviours of a wide variety of birds without even naming them. This is done through rhyme and imaginative, descriptive vocabulary. Barbara Reid's detailed plasticine illustrations greatly enhance the text by showing the birds in various settings throughout the seasons. *The birds of Christmas* introduces the child to bird watching and bird feeding through a sensitive story which takes place during the Christmas season. The author has selected eight common winter birds upon which to focus his attention. On the back cover of the book are the beautiful pictures and names of each bird for easy reference.

It is difficult to determine which age group, if any, would benefit from *Owls in North America*. The sophisticated text appropriate to an older child does not correspond with the activity of colouring pictures. Illustrations are to be

coloured by following detailed and often complicated instructions. Although its intentions are good, by attempting to be a field guide, a story book and a colouring book, it loses sight of its intended audience. This book tries too hard to teach and takes the enjoyment out of learning about owls. *Eyewitness Books: BIRD* is a non-fiction book which appeals to a wide range of age groups. A young child can learn much simply by studying the excellent photographs such as the series showing a bird hatching out of an egg. The detailed index and table of contents along with the categorization of information lends itself very well to the beginning researcher. The overall quality and information in this book would greatly assist in extending a child's personal knowledge and interest in birds.

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EXUBERANT TREATMENT OF A CLASSIC

Happy thought and other poems for children. Robert Louis Stevenson. Selected and illustrated Victor GAD. Midway Publications, 1988, 32 pp., ISBN C88-094403-X.

Stevenson began writing the poems he included in *A child's garden of verses* in 1881, but most of them were composed during illness and severe pain or under the threat of death, in 1884. Yet these poems have something magical about them, springing from happy boyhood memories, often of holidays at his grandfather's house beside the Water of Leith.

Stevenson's verses evoke not only the sights and sounds of his childhood in summer and winter, with such poems as "Nest eggs" and "The cow," but are particularly remarkable for the ways they show how a child uses his or her imagination in play. "Young night thought," "The land of counterpane" and "My bed is a boat" are all examples of how Stevenson was able to re-create those complex states of childhood experience when the child is totally absorbed in an imaginative game, pretending to sail a boat across the dark ocean perhaps, and yet somehow knows that it is a game all the time,

Although there is no shortage of editions of *A child's garden* over 20 still available according to recent copies of *American and British Books in Print* – Victor GAD's new selection is a *real* selection, containing sixteen poems out of a possible 86, and aimed perhaps at the very youngest readers. It includes some of Stevenson's more direct and dramatic poems, such as "From a railway carriage," "The cow" and "A good play," and leaves the more challenging verse for older children.

More particularly, Victor GAD's selection is accompanied by his own