

**HOME AND FOREIGN
BIRDS: A BOOK FOR
YOUNG CHILDREN;
PICTURE READING BOOKS**

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Home and Foreign Birds: A Book for Young Children; Picture reading books by Various

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VARIOUS

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BIRDS.

A BOOK FOR YOUNG CHILDREN.

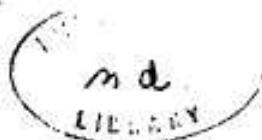


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THE BUZZARD, OR HAWK.

THE Buzzard is commonly known as the Hawk. It is a handsome bird, which is found in all large woods, where it makes a nest in the forked branches of a tree, or repairs the old nest of a Crow, by making it larger, and lining it with moss or wool. It feeds on birds, frogs, moles, or mice; but hunger only makes it seek food; for it will sit idly on the high branch of a tree for hours, watching for a Rabbit, or any small animal, on which it will pounce, seize its prey, and, without alighting on the ground, bear it off to the same perch. It is a great coward, and is often beat by the Sparrow-hawk, which is a much smaller bird; but it is a kind parent, and if the female should be killed, the male bird will bring up the young. The Kite is one of the Buzzard race,—the greatest enemy to the poultry yard, and so dreaded by the fowls, that when only a speck can be seen in the clouds, the watchful Hen knows it is the Kite, and with many cries collects her little family under her wings.



THE GREBE.

THE Grebe is one of the most curious of the Divers known in England, and is to be met with in the fens of the Midland Counties, and in some parts of Scotland. The legs of the bird are placed so far back, that it walks, or rather waddles, in the most awkward manner, and when it rests sits nearly upright. The feet are not webbed, and it uses the toes as paddles to swim in the water. It feeds on fish, for which it dives very boldly. On the floating weeds it makes a nest, which is often quite wet, but the bird seems to feel no discomfort, but hatches her four eggs in her little floating mansion. The flesh of the Grebe is fishy, but the skins are of some value, being dressed with the feathers on, and used to make muffs and boas.



THE PUFFIN.

THE Puffin, with its huge, sharp, furrowed beak, is able to defend itself from all foes. It is a sea-bird, common in the Western Islands of Great Britain. It is often seen sitting on high cliffs, from whence it dives into the sea for food, bringing up a large number of fish at once in its deep bill. It makes a burrow in the earth, like a Rabbit, with two entrances, to secure its escape; and in this it lays one large white egg; and while sitting on it, it makes a constant humming sound, which produces a very strange effect, as many of these holes are always found near together. The plumage of the Puffin is dark on the back, and white below; the legs are orange. This bird leaves our coasts in August, and does not return till April.



THE GREAT AUK.

THE Great Auk feeds on fish; it is found on all the shores of the Northern Ocean, and is sometimes seen in the Northern Islands of Scotland. Its short wings are of no use in flying, and its legs are so far back that it walks very slowly; but it dives well, and swims under the water, rising at a great distance from the place where it went down. The sailors know they are near land when they see the Great Auk, which never ventures far from the shore. The plumage of the head, neck, and back is black, and the under parts are white, with a white patch before the eyes. On the cleft of a high rock this bird lays one large white egg streaked with purple; and these eggs are so rare that they are much valued by collectors.