Discover the Varied Biosphere of Countryside and Fields!





6+ Thomas Müller

Hamster, Stork and swallowtail

84 pages, full-coloured 25.5 cm x 33 cm, hardcover € 24.00

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An intact cultivated landscape is like a colourful mosaic: meadows, pastures, fields, tree groves and hedges. Crossed by pathways, waterways and rows of blossoms, it's a rich environment for plants and animals. And it's good for humans, too!

This large-format, splendidly illustrated book is dedicated to the animals that make their homes here, and displays them in all their diversity. A few animals owe their names to this biosphere! But more than just field mice and meadowlarks can be found; countless birds and mammals are native to this environment. We learn about the most important and most interesting ones, and with a little luck, we'll recognize them on our next visit to the pasture.

Award-winning illustrator Thomas Müller renders the lively environment of countryside and fields in every detailed brushstroke.

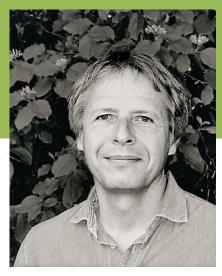




Thomas Müller

Thomas Müller, born in Döbeln, studied at the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig, where he now lives as a freelance illustrator. He has created over 30 children's books. In 2016, he received the Youth Non-Fiction Award of the Association for the Promotion of Reading.

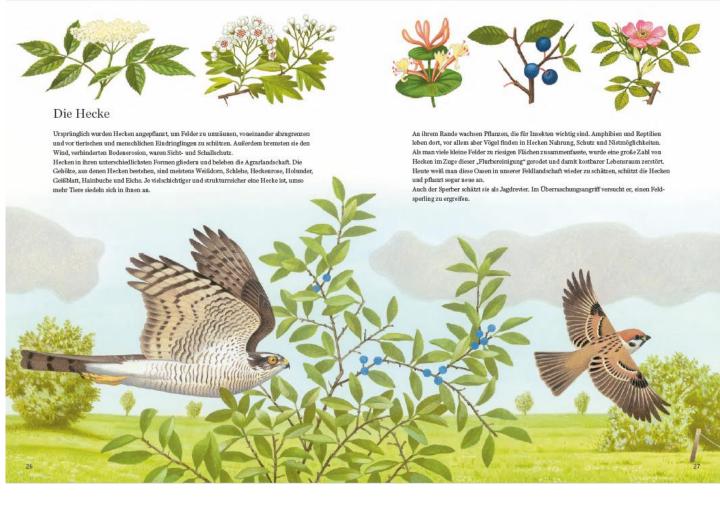
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The hedge

Originally, hedges were planted to fence off fields, to separate them from each other and to discourage animal and human intruders. They also slowed the wind, prevented soil erosion and provided visual and sound barriers. Hedges in their various forms structure and enliven the agricultural landscape. The woody plants that make up hedges are usually hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, elder, honeysuckle, hornbeam and oak. The more complex and structurally rich a hedge is, the more likely animals are to settle in it.

Plants that are important for insects grow at their edge. Amphibians and reptiles live there too. Most important of all, birds find food, shelter and nesting opportunities in hedges. When, at one time, many small fields were combined into vast areas in a process called "land consolidation", a large number of hedgerows were cleared, destroying valuable habitat. Today, these wildlife oases in the landscape are better understood; the hedgerows are protected and new ones are planted. The sparrowhawk uses them as hunting grounds. In a surprise attack, it tries to seize a tree sparrow.









Wie verstreut stehen die unterschiedlichen Obstbäume auf der Wiese: Äpfel, Birnen, Pflaumen, Kirschen, Aprikosen, Quitten und andere. Die Streuebstwiese gehört zum traditionellen Kulturlandschaftsbild und bietet vielen Tieren Lebensraum. In der Bewirtschaftung dieser alten Form des Obstbaus werden weder Dünger noch Pestizide eingesetzt, was für gesundes, unverfällschtes Obst sorgt. Schafe und Ziegen weiden und düngen die Wiese. Neben jungen gibt es alte Bäume, die Höllen, Ritzen und Astlöcher ausgebildet haben. Die Ernte auf Streuobstwiesen ist mühsamer und die Menge der Ernte geringer als auf den meisten modernen Obstplantagen. Viele Streuobstwiesen wurden daher nicht mehr gepflegt oder gar zerstört. Heute ist das Bewusstsein für den Reichtum dieses Biotops, der mit Geld nicht zu bemessen ist, wiedererwacht. So können auf Streuobstwiesen mehr als 5000 Tier- und Pflanzenarten lebenein Schatz an Artenvielfalt. Mit dem von Chemie unbelastetem Obst ist das ein doppelter Gewinn.



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Various fruit trees are scattered across the meadow: Apples, pears, plums, cherries, apricots, quinces and others. The meadow orchard is part of the traditional landscape. It provides a habitat for many animals. In this old form of orcharding, neither fertilisers nor pesticides are used in cultivation, which ensures healthy, unadulterated fruit. Sheep and goats graze and fertilise the meadow. Besides young trees, there are old trees with cavities, cracks and knotholes.

Harvesting in meadow orchards is more labour-intensive and the crop yield is smaller than in most modern orchards. Years ago, meadow orchards were therefore no longer maintained or were even destroyed. Today, there is a renewed awareness of the richness of this biotope, which cannot be measured in money. More than 5000 animal and plant species can live in a single meadow orchards - a treasure of biodiversity. Since it yields fruit uncontaminated by chemicals, this is a double benefit.

