

Christian Liberty
Nature Reader
Book 4

Third Edition



Copyright © 2019 Christian Liberty Press

ANSWER KEY

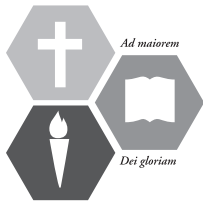
Christian Liberty Press

28721 3/19

Copyright © 2019, 2001 Christian Liberty Press
Third Edition, copyright © 2019

All rights reserved. No part of this answer key may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without written permission from the publisher. Brief quotations embodied in critical articles or reviews are permitted.

Copyright © 2019 Christian Liberty Press



Christian Liberty Press

502 West Euclid Avenue
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004
www.christianlibertypress.com

Written by: Edward J. Shewan and Carol Howard
Copyediting: Diane Olson
Cover design: Bob Fine
Cover image: Jenny Mathews, copyright © 2019

ISBN 978-1-629821-47-4 (Print)
978-1-629821-48-1 (eBook PDF)

Printed in the United States of America

Contents

Introduction	vi
Preface	vii
<i>The Winds Whisper His Name</i>	viii
Unit 1: Perching Birds.....	1
The Quail	1
<i>Something to Do</i>	1
The Brown Thrasher	1
<i>Something to Do</i>	2
The Cardinal	2
<i>Something to Do</i>	2
The Purple Martin	2
<i>Something to Do</i>	3
The Kingbird	3
<i>Something to Do</i>	3
The Crow	3
<i>Something to Do</i>	4
Unit 2: Birds of Prey	4
The Owl.....	4
An Owl's Anatomy	4
More About Owls	5
Nesting Habits of Owls.....	5
Truth About Owls.....	5
The Barn Owl	6
The Great Horned Owl	6
The Barred Owl	6
The Screech Owl.....	7
The Saw-whet Owl.....	7
The Short-eared Owl.....	7
The Long-eared Owl	7
The Burrowing Owl.....	8
The Elf Owl.....	8
The Snowy Owl	8
<i>Something to Do</i>	9

Unit 3: Studying Birds9

A Quiet Approach	9
Watching Hummingbirds.....	9
Look for Color	10
Beaks, Wings, and Tails	10
Rescuing Birds.....	11
<i>Something to Do</i>	11

Unit 4: Insects..... 11

The Wasp	11
Wasp Babies	12
More About Wasps	12
<i>Something to Do</i>	13
The Bumblebee.....	13
<i>Something to Do</i>	13
The Ladybug	13
<i>Something to Do</i>	14
Aphids	14
<i>Something to Do</i>	15
The Lacewing.....	15
<i>Something to Do</i>	15
The Mosquito.....	16
<i>Something to Do</i>	16
The Dragonfly and Damselfly	16
<i>Something to Do</i>	17

Unit 5: Moths17

The Tomato Hornworm	17
The Hornworm Changes	18
<i>Something to Do</i>	18
The Cecropia Moth	18
The Caterpillar Changes	19
<i>Something to Do</i>	19
The Isabella Tiger Moth.....	20
<i>Something to Do</i>	20
The Codling Moth	20
<i>Something to Do</i>	21

Unit 6: Turtles21

- Turtles.....21
- More About Turtles.....21
- The Wood Turtle22
- The Box Turtle.....22
- The Painted Turtle.....22
- The Snapping Turtle.....22
- The Soft-shelled Turtle23
- Sea Turtles.....23
- Something to Do*..... 23

Unit 7: Snakes.....23

- Snakes23
- More About Snakes24
- The Rattlesnake24
- The Copperhead.....25
- The Water Moccasin25
- The Coral Snake25
- The Water Snake.....26
- The King Snake26
- The Milk Snake26
- The Garter Snake26
- The Ribbon Snake.....26
- The Blacksnake.....27
- The Bull Snake27
- The Hognose Snake27
- The Green Snake27
- The Glass Snake28
- The Hair Snake28
- Something to Do*..... 28

Introduction

The *Christian Liberty Nature Reader* series is an engaging set of readers that will spark your child's interest in God's world. This series can also be used for teaching science in the lower grades. To help instructors grade their students' daily work, answers have been provided to the Review questions found at the end of each story in the book. These questions are essentially objective in nature and are based on the information in the respective stories.

Students should be expected to provide the same information, though not necessarily the same wording, when answering these questions. These Review questions can also be used to foster discussions or group learning experiences.

May God grant you wisdom as you seek to introduce the wonder and order of His creation to your students. Learn to look for the amazing things around you, and thank God for all you have.

*The Staff of Christian Liberty Press
Arlington Heights, Illinois*

Preface

The *Christian Liberty Nature Reader* series is a delightful set of books that will spark your child's interest in God's world. Hopefully, this answer key will encourage fathers to get involved through the question sections at the end of each story. For instance, my husband contributed in one project by building for our children a birdhouse and observation area. In addition, I designed a book to record the results of the nature study. Therefore, try to foster family discussions or group learning experiences by using this key and the question sections at the end of each story. A significant feature found in this answer key is the "Something To Do" sections, which offer helpful activities that make the lessons come to life.

We have come to appreciate each other more through homeschooling. It is a blessing to serve the Lord in this way. See the wonderful things around you, and thank God for all you have.

Carol Howard



The Winds Whisper His Name

by Carol Howard

The mighty winds, the forceful hand of creation—
Who knows where they go and all they can do?

Look to God, who is the Hand of all creation's doings.
Hear the sounds begin around you; all glorify the Creator.
He is mightier than you.

Behold the evidence of His wondrous deeds around us.
In awe and respect of Him I ponder—

Let men seek Him who knows the dividing of soul and sunder.
For all that is seen is held together by the One who controls the
mighty winds of wonder.

Text Key

Unit 1: Perching Birds

The Quail (page 5)

1. The quail is a small brown bird, about the size of a small chicken. It has a short, plump body; a short, stout bill; short, round wings for quick, curved flights; short, stout legs; three toes in the front of each foot and one toe in the back; and strong claws.
2. Both quails and chickens have small, plump bodies; short, stout bills; small, stout legs; three toes in the front and one toe in the rear; and claws. They both scratch for bugs to eat.
3. The quails' colors blend in with their surroundings, making it hard to detect them. In addition, they can fly fast and far to escape their enemies. Quails also will not go directly to their nests, but they will initially take detours around their nests. As babies, these birds are taught how to hide and be quiet when danger is present.
4. Quails are the farmers' friends because these birds eat many insects and weed seeds that could harm the farmers' crops.
5. In the winter, it is hard for quails to find food, so we can help them by putting food and water out when the ground is covered with ice and snow.

Something To Do

Watch quails during the fall and put out food for them in winter. Learn to imitate the quails' calls and see if you can coax them to come to you. Listen for their singing lessons in early summer.

The Brown Thrasher (page 11)

1. The difference between a brown thrasher and a mockingbird is that the thrasher is reddish brown in color, but the mockingbird is gray.
2. The thrasher's long tail acts like a rudder, which helps the bird to dodge in and out among the twigs.

3. Few people see thrashers' nests because they look so much like the branches and twigs that surround them.
4. The young birds learn to fly by their mothers patiently coaxing them with worms and grasshoppers—enticing them to hop and then to fly toward the bait.
5. Brown thrashers are helpful because they eat many plant-damaging insects, helping to keep the balance in nature.

Something To Do

Watch a thrasher flying through bushes to see how it uses its tail as a rudder. Watch one singing in a tree to discover how it balances itself on the twig. Try to get a brown thrasher to answer your call.

The Cardinal (page 15)

1. The male cardinal is a bright red bird, except for its black throat. He has a thick, red bill and beautiful topknot. The female has a pinkish-brown body and a pink bill. Both of them sing beautifully.
2. The birds locate a nesting site in a tree or bush. They use bark, rootlets, and grasses to build a nest and pad it.
3. Since it is difficult for cardinals to find food in winter, we can help them by leaving crumbs and grain out.

Something To Do

Feed cardinals grain and suet, or animal fat, during cold weather. Watch a cardinal sing. Notice how he balances himself while singing, and watch his crest rise and fall.

The Purple Martin (page 19)

1. The purple martin is smaller than a robin. The male has very glossy, bluish-black feathers; strong wings that are long and narrow; a short bill that opens very wide; and a tail that is somewhat forked. The female and young birds have brownish colored bodies and gray breasts.
2. The martin is an expert flier because its tail helps it to turn quickly while catching food and escaping enemies.
3. The purple martin is a sociable bird because it likes to nest in colonies. This bird also loves to sing and be among people.

4. The purple martin saves our plants by eating many harmful beetles and mosquitoes. It also drives off crows and hawks.*
5. We can attract martins by erecting colony birdhouses.

Something To Do

Erect a colony birdhouse for purple martins early in spring. Observe how gracefully they fly, how they catch insects, and how they get a drink while flying.

The Kingbird (page 22)

1. The kingbird is a little smaller than a robin. The eastern kingbird's head, back, wings, and tail are a dark bluish-gray; its underparts are white, and the bottom of its tail is trimmed in white as well. The western kingbird is light gray and has yellow underparts, with whitish edges on the tip of its tail. Each of these birds has a hidden red crest on its crown. The kingbird also has a strong bill with a slight hook.
2. The kingbird is called a flycatcher because it eats thousands of flies. When the kingbird sees a fly with its sharp eyes, it darts out after it, snaps it up, and returns to its perching place to watch for another one.
3. The kingbird is helpful to man because it drives off crows and hawks, and keeps the insect population down.

Something To Do

Watch a kingbird pursuing a crow or hawk. Can you tell why the crow or hawk does not turn and try to attack the kingbird?

The Crow (page 25)

1. A crow is larger than a pigeon.
2. A crow flies by constantly flapping its large, strong wings. Its flight seems slow and clumsy, so we say it lumbers through the air.
3. Crows eat almost anything alive or dead, such as baby birds, little chickens, insects, mice, bugs, and corn.

* Though not mentioned in the text, crows eat grain crops and hawks eat poultry. This makes them very unpopular with farmers. Nevertheless, crows eat many harmful insects; and hawks eat many harmful rodents, reptiles, and insects.

4. The crows travel in flocks so they can guard one another while eating. During the winter, they gather in the forest by the hundreds at the crows' roost and hunt for food together.
5. A crows' roost is a forest where the crows gather in winter to perch, or rest, on the branches of the trees.*

Something To Do

Watch crows in a field to see how they work together. Notice how alert the sentinels are and how much confidence the whole flock has in them.

Unit 2: Birds of Prey

The Owl (page 29)

1. Most owls are nocturnal, which means they sleep during the day and hunt at night.
2. The owls' feathers are tipped with down, making their flight absolutely noiseless.
3. An owl's eyes are large and round. The pupil in an owl's eye expands until it covers most of the eye, so it can see very keenly at night; however, it can see very little during the day. The owl cannot roll its eyes, but must turn its head to see in another direction. The stiff feathers around an owl's eyes radiate from around each eye, helping it to focus its sight.

An Owl's Anatomy (page 32)

1. Birds of prey use their beaks to tear their prey.
2. An owl's legs are very strong and are covered completely with feathers. On each foot, there are four strong toes tipped with powerful, curved, sharp, needle-pointed claws or talons. Three toes point toward the front, and one points toward the back. An owl can move its outer toes forward or backward to get a firm grip on its victim.
3. An owl vomits little balls or pellets, consisting of the indigestible parts of its meal.

* It should be noted that crows do roost at times in the tens of thousands, but most kinds do not nest in colonies.