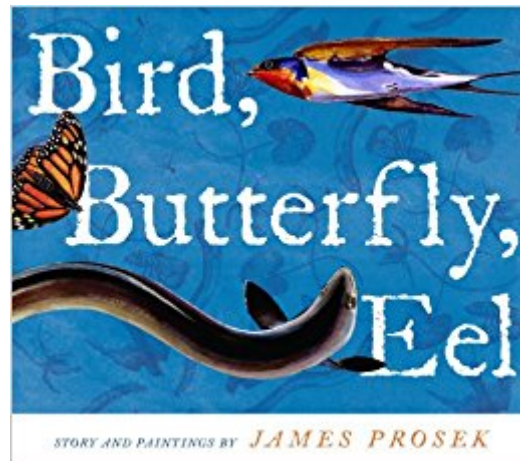




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# Bird, Butterfly, Eel



## Synopsis

Change is all around us. From the first buds of springtime to the first autumn frost, nature shows us that change is all around us and that the world has its own way of beginning anew. Bird, Butterfly, and Eel spend their summers on the same coastal farm, but in the fall they go to very distant and different places. Their journeys to the far reaches of land and sea make them remarkable creatures. James Prosek uses their stories and his own sun-kissed paintings to introduce young readers to the basic elements of bird, fish, and insect migration.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD1040L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (February 24, 2009)

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ISBN-10: 0689868294

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Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #688,138 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Philosophy #376 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Ancient #1062 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Marine Life

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 3 "This unusual introduction to animal migration starts on a New England farm, which is home to a monarch butterfly, a barn swallow, and an American eel. During the summer, the creatures prepare for the long journey ahead. In fall, they travel more than a thousand miles to complete the next stage of their lives. Eventually, their offspring return to the same farm to recommence the cycle. The striking watercolor illustrations effectively introduce the animals in their habitats. Often the page layout, divided into three horizontal bands, reminds viewers of the parallel existence of bird, butterfly, and eel. The double-page map showing their respective journeys emphasizes the vast distances they migrate. Two pages of author notes supply fascinating information that older readers might use to expand their own knowledge or answer questions of

curious listeners. A well-designed and useful resource to pique curiosity about an amazing aspect of the lives of many animals.â ”Kathy Piehl, Minnesota State University, Mankato Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

On a New England farm in the summer, a monarch butterfly flits about, laying her eggs on milkweed plants in the meadow, while an eel swims and eats in the pond and a swallow tends her young in the rafters of the barn. Autumn arrives, and each begins a journey to a warmer place: Bird flies to Argentina, Butterfly flies to Mexico, and Eel swims down a creek and across the Atlantic to the Sargasso Sea. When spring comes to the farm, Bird, Butterfly, and Eel (or, as the appended notes clarify, their descendants) return. Apart from a couple of incongruous bits of anthropomorphism, the text tells what is happening in a concise, straightforward manner. Double-page paintings illustrate the animals and their habitats in broad, horizontal scenes. One particularly nice panel clearly depicts eight stages as a caterpillar changes into a butterfly. The book concludes with two pages of information on the three species. A satisfying addition to classroom units on migration. Grades K-3. --Carolyn Phelan

This book is beautifully illustrated and is nicely informative, but as with many children's books written by nature and science illustrators, the register is inconsistent. Some pages read like they're intended for third graders, and others like they're meant for kindergarteners,

Beautifully illustrated.

A

I was expecting this book to show the journey of the migrating animals, instead the migration part was dotted lines on a map (which I am sure I could have found on the internet for free). The story is flat and not interesting enough to hold the reader's attention... in fact I would argue the book is just not that creative or exciting. I was hoping students would travel with the animals on their journey and what they saw along the way, but instead they saw the animals in their northern home with only one image of being in the southern home. The artwork is very good, but it felt like a cameo of each animal, series of life cycles posters, and a map. I am also amazed that the lives of these animals somehow managed to never mention the "death" part. Plus, I actually found the migration bit so short on details that I got confused as to what was going on. I had to read information on the

internet to make sense of the migraine stuff. This book would be great for a visual learner on life cycles, but ultimately this really is not that great at explaining metamorphosis of butterflies. I regret my purchase.

What a nice way of talking about the changing of the seasons and the life cycles of each of the creatures. The pictures are beautiful. My grandchildren (age 4 & 18 months) love this book.

I really enjoy the artist and the writer. He put a very interesting story together to read to children.

James Prosek's *\_Bird, Butterfly, Eel\_* (2009) is a study of the parallel migrations that the barn swallow, the Monarch butterfly, and the American eel will make from a farm near Martha's Vineyard off Cape Cod. The bird will go eight thousand miles to the tip of Argentina. The butterfly will go three thousand miles to the mountains of Central America. The eel will swim fifteen hundred miles to the Sargasso Sea. Their journeys are shown in lovely paintings by the author, often in a "split screen" format for comparison and contrast. Scenes from their original home on the New England farm (with a black barn cat) are depicted for seasonal contrast. Eventually, the animals (or their descendants) return to the farm. We see the cycle start again. There is an excellent appendix (also illustrated) of real facts about these animals. A beautiful book on the theme of change and cycles.

It's summertime and the cat carefully makes his way along the stone wall on the farm. The eel, the bird and the butterfly are hidden in the landscape. The beautiful monarch is sitting on a flower. "She lives in the meadow behind the pond." The eel is just below the surface in "the dark cool waters of the pond." The bullfrog on the lily pad doesn't see him, nor does the black cat. The barn swallow is tending her nest in the barn while the cat peers into the loft from below. "She loves being safe, high up in the rafters . . . "They are all continuing their individual lifestyles from early spring through the summer and into the fall, when it is time for yet another change. It will soon be cold and they will have to leave the farm and begin a long journey to the south. Along the way they will briefly meet other creatures before going on their on paths. Later on in the spring they will return to the farm. This beautiful book gently takes the reader through the yearly cycle of three creatures often seen on a farm. The artwork is graceful, beautiful and bright when called for and more muted as needed. For example the barn is shadowy and dark, but the ocean scenery has vibrant blue hues. In the back of the book are facts about each creature and tells why they migrate and do not stay on the farm.

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