

Copyright Notice

Year of publication: 2025

Name of the copyright holder: Philip Donkersley

ISBN Number: 978-1-0369-1329-8

Publisher Information

Name of the publishing company Address and/or website of the publisher Edition and Printing Information

Printing history

First Edition
Printed in United Kingdom

Credits

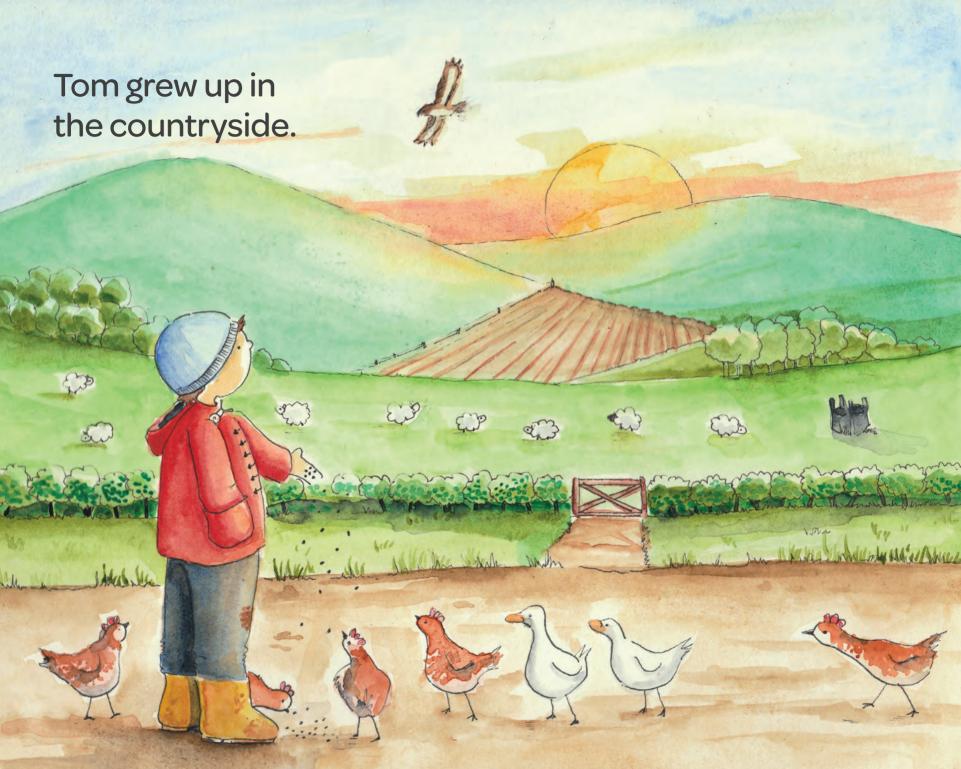
Author: Philip Donkersley Illustrator: Angela K James Designer: Adrian Ridley Editor: Carly Stevens

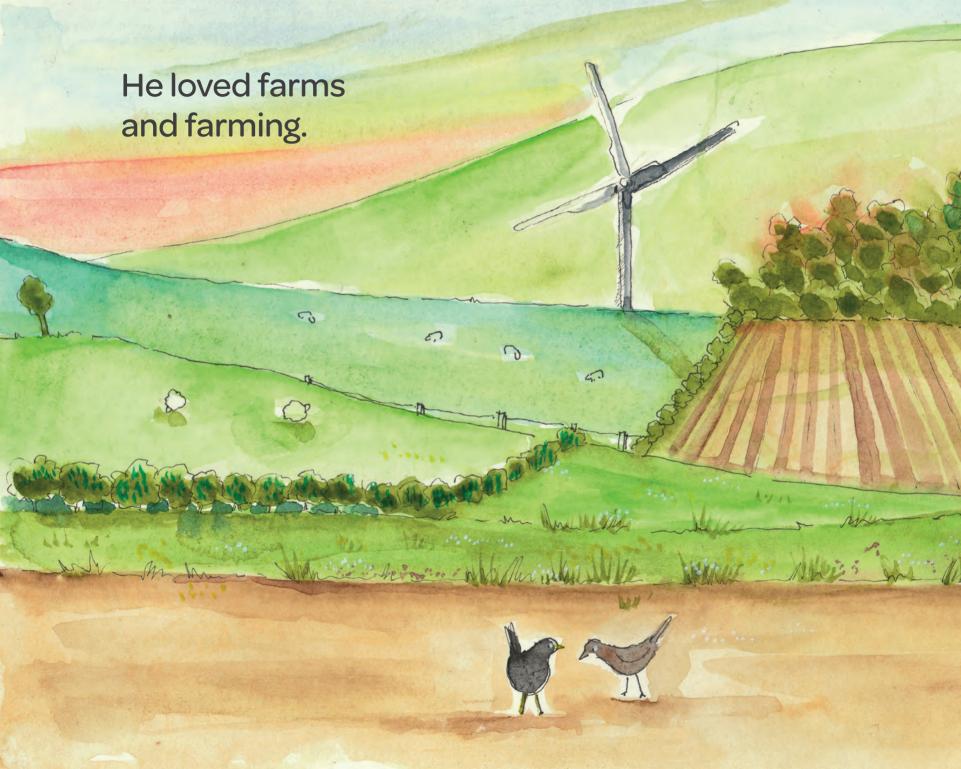
Acknowledgments

This book was produced for the Waitrose Collaborative Training Partnership, which ran from 2017 to 2025.

Contact Information

 $Please\ contact\ the\ author:\ p.w.donkersley 1@lancaster.ac.uk$



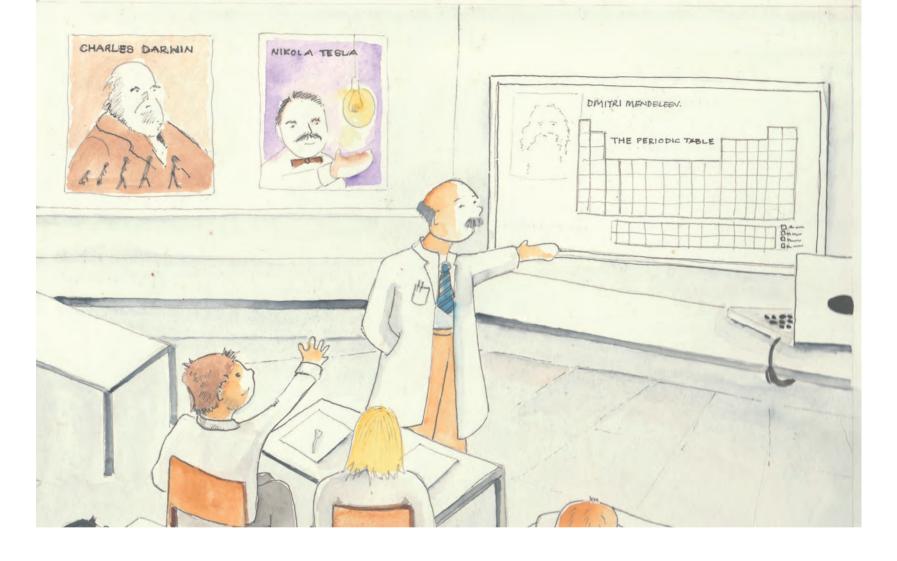






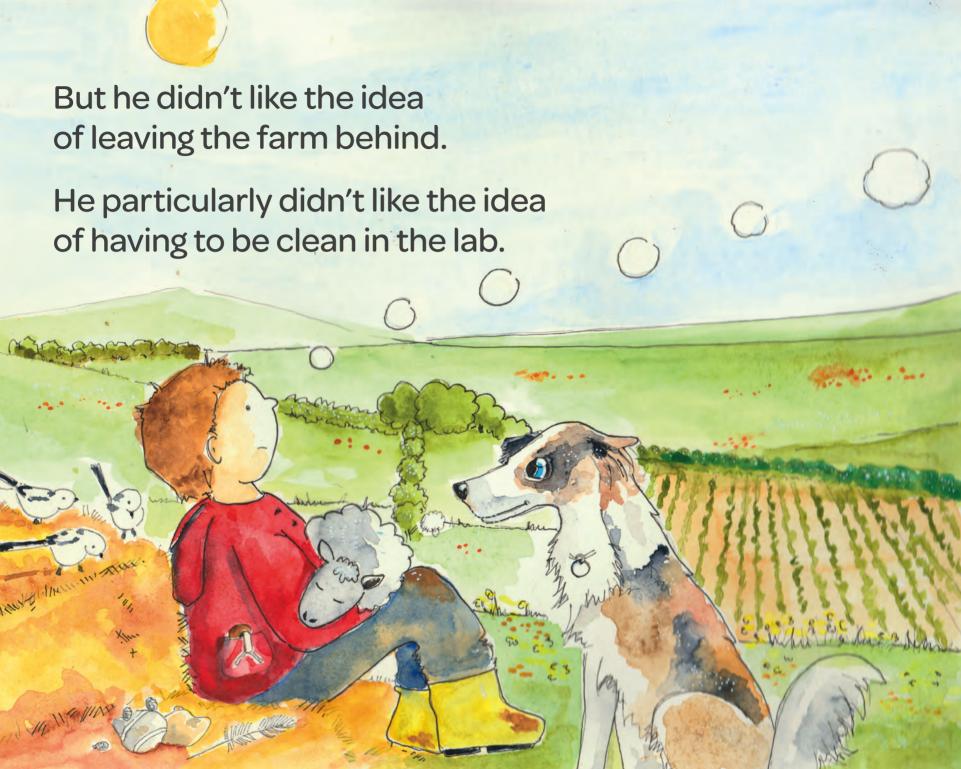
The goose always seemed to pop up at the worst time, honking and flapping its wings at anyone they didn't approve of.





When Tom went to school he learned about scientists.

He thought science was really cool.





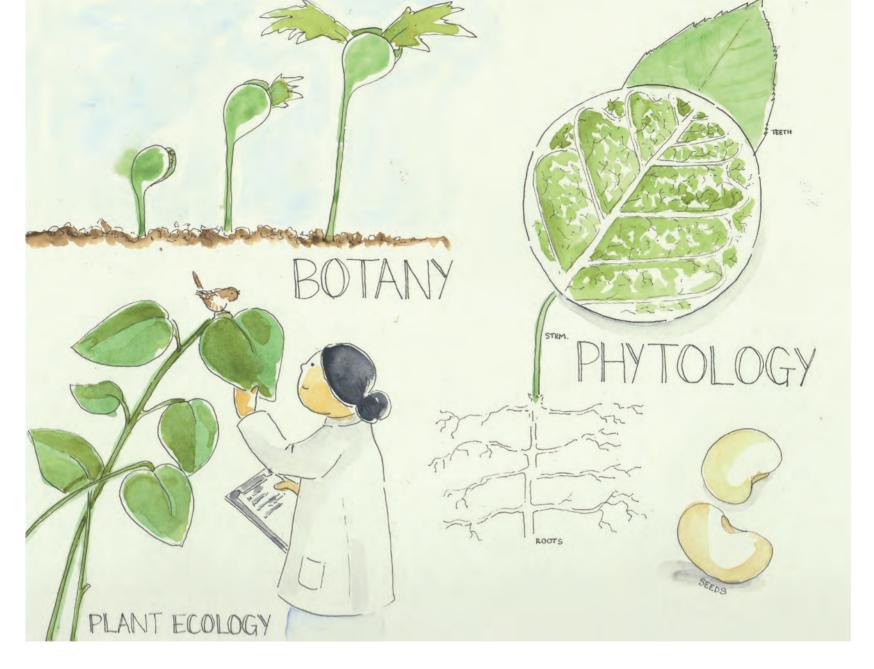




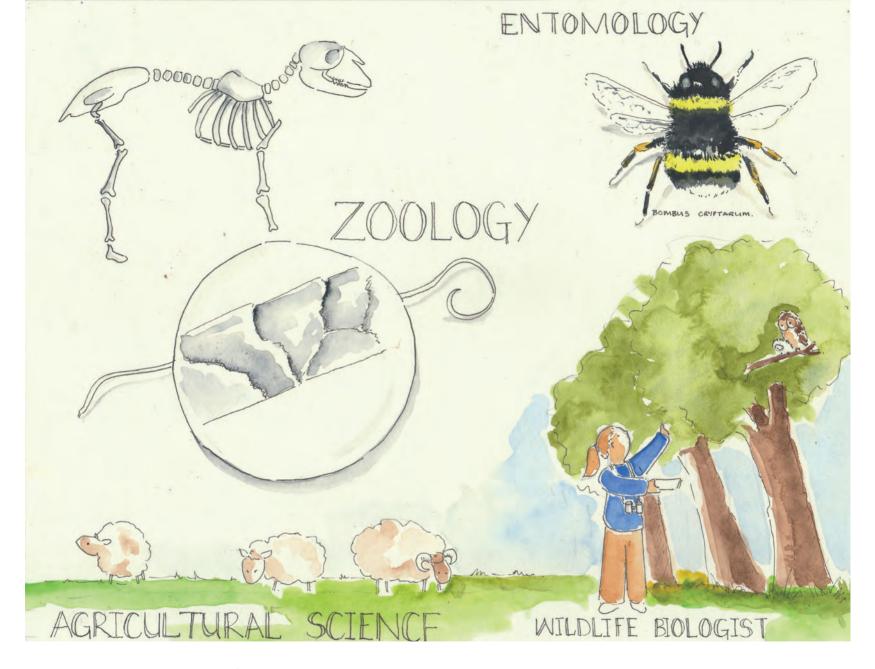
Every scientist he saw on TV wore a clean lab coat and stayed far far away from the mud. Tom didn't want to have to be like them.



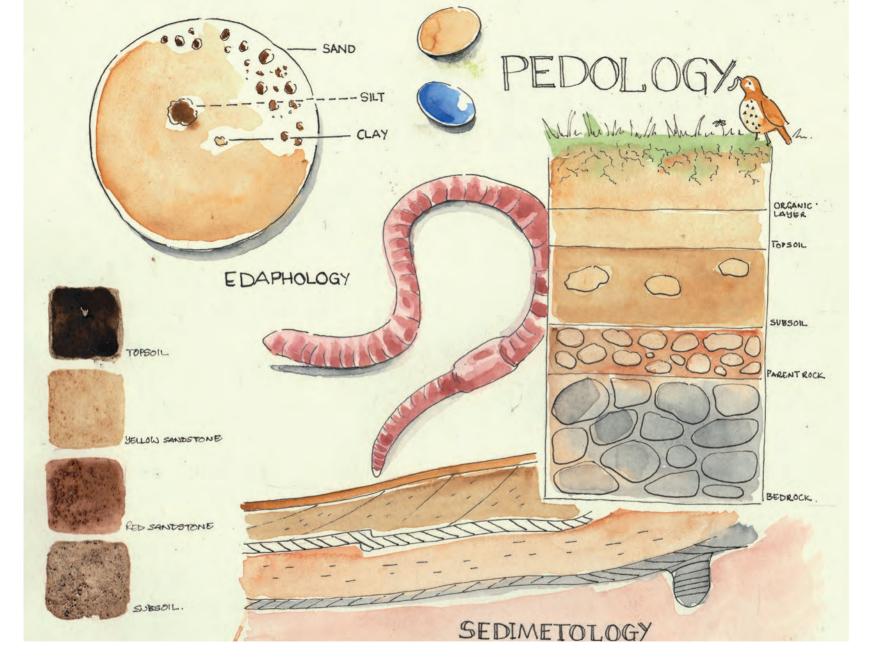




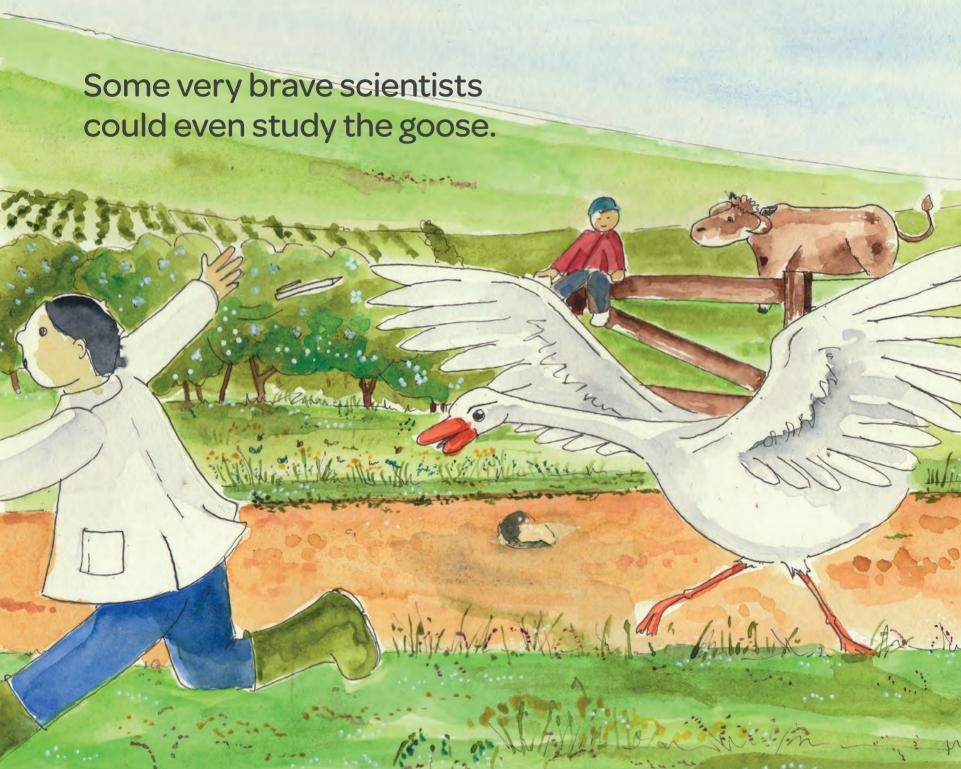
They study plants.



They study animals.



They study mud.







Dr Mandy is a soil scientist who studies all the tiny creatures in the mud, "Our soils are really important, we have to look after them" she says.





Dr. Ed is a plant scientist, he digs deep into the soil, holding up a potato as big as a football. "Perfect for chips!" he cheers.

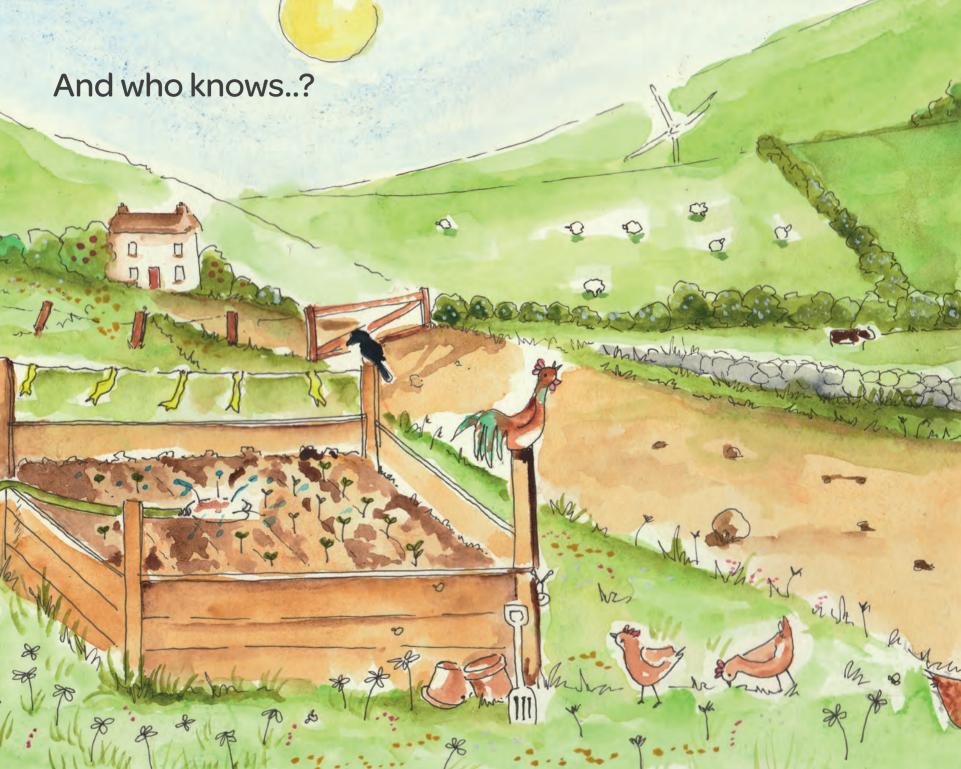


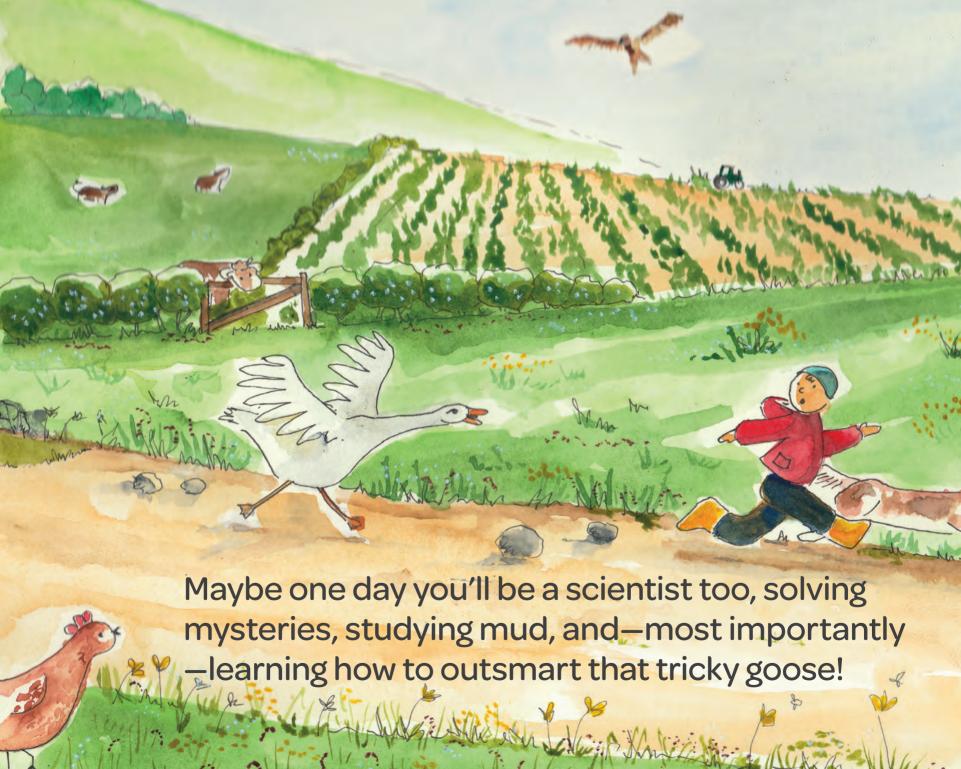


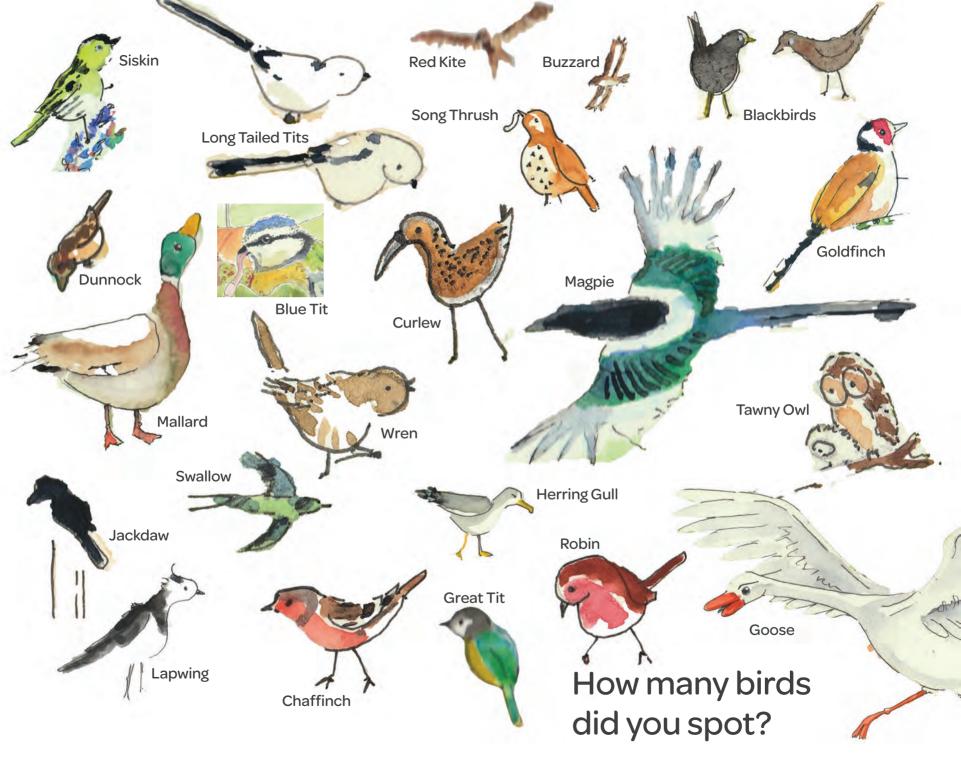
Dr. Hannah is an ecologist, she watches the bees busily zoom from flower to flower, their tiny legs covered in golden pollen. "They're helping the flowers grow and the fruits ripen," she says. Science is more than just old people being serious, they do it because its so much fun.

Being outside scooping up mud, counting bees and making giant potatoes is fun.









Entomology

The scientific study of insects—their biology, behaviour, ecology, and classification.

Zoology

The branch of biology that investigates animals, their physiology, behaviour, evolution, and classification.

Agricultural Science

An interdisciplinary field applying scientific principles to improve crops and livestock, soil management, and sustainable food systems.

Wildlife Biology

The study of wild animal species, their behaviour, interactions, and conservation within natural ecosystems.

Botany

The scientific study of plants—their structure, growth, reproduction, metabolism, and classification.

Phytology

The study of plant life, including their structure, function, and ecology.

Plant Ecology

The study of how plants interact with each other and their environment, including the effects of climate, soil, and other biotic factors on plant distribution and growth.

Pedology

A branch of soil science focused on the formation, classification, and mapping of soils in their natural settings.

Edaphology

The study of how soils affect living organisms—especially plants—by influencing nutrient availability, moisture, and overall soil fertility.

Sedimentology

The study of sediments and sedimentary rocks, including their origins, transportation, deposition, and the processes that transform loose sediments into solid rock.