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# Birds; Flowers; Molluscs; Trees

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We've just had a nice young man from the Forestry Commission here explaining how he can help us improve our existing woodland and create new. He spent nearly all afternoon saying what Joy Richardson manages in a sentence: 'Trees are part of the earth's furniture'. Such simple but significant statements characterise this author's work for her Watts series, so it's a pleasure to find four more lifting off.

The basics of tree structure, physiology and natural roles are presented, birds are 'made for flying' so plenty of space is devoted to feathers and flight patterns. Did you know that the octopus - which has 'a good brain but ... no head' is a mollusc or that whelks attack other creatures with their saw edged tongues? Had you ever thought that flowers only have scent, colour and shape so as to get reproduction done as quickly as possible? Such examples of Joy Richardson's refreshing approach abound here, accompanied by excellent illustrative photographs, decent uncrowded indices and delightful endpapers.

These are all grand introductions to their subjects and all capable of inspiring adult interpreters to amplify their contents.

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