

these hairs are not always of a yellowish tinge, as in many specimens they are of a dark rusty or reddish-brown colour, or even nearly white. The body colour also varies, and in the paler specimens a more or less broken lateral blackish stripe, as well as bands of the same colour across the back between each of the segments, may be seen. When full grown, in autumn, this Woolly-bear spins a cocoon similar to that of the Salt-marsh Caterpillar, and passes the winter as a chrysalis inside this coarse silken cover. In May and June, of the following year, the moths appear. These do not differ very much, the wings of both sexes being snowy white, marked with a few black dots. There is a row of black spots down the centre of the abdomen, and another on either side; between these there is a longitudinal orange stripe.

To rear these insects in confinement, an old tin box, if this is clean, will answer as a breeding cage; and it is no trouble at all to get food plants, as dandelion, plantain, and other weeds are common everywhere. If specimens of the Salt-marsh Caterpillar or of the Yellow Woolly-bear are collected in autumn, they should be given fresh food every day or two, and, when this is done, all the old food and any dirt which may be present, should be removed from the cage. As both of these Woolly-bears make their cocoons in the fall, some dry leaves should also be put in the cage, among which they will spin up. Two or three specimens only should be placed in each cage. In early spring the Hedghog Caterpillar may be found commonly under boards, etc., in fields or along roadsides. These do not require much attention, and soon after collection they will make their cocoons.

The three kinds of Woolly-bears, as stated above, are all exceedingly common; but, yet, how few of us know much about them? It is very often the commonest objects about which least is known.

In Nature Study work, it is well known that the presentation of some object in which life is noticeably apparent is bound to induce thoughtful consideration; therefore, some living animal, no matter how small, will prove of special value in the development of an active mind in those pupils before whom such objects are placed.

During all such observations as are above suggested the alert teacher will find many points of value in connection with the work of teaching Nature Study.