

given, all we can say is that the parent birds fed their young a certain number of times, but it can reasonably be assumed that, had the observer been absent, the number of visits to the nest would not have been diminished, but more likely been increased.

These observations were carefully made and care taken to make the records exact. By way of commendation, it is safe to say that a day's work of this sort has much value, even though much has to be eliminated on account of error. A student cannot avoid the fact that birds are actually doing work, and by knowing the amount that one pair is doing every day, he has an index that will tell him approximately what that particular species is doing for his community.

I see no impossible reason why such an exercise might not be used with interest and profit in our public schools and more especially in rural districts. Of course we are to insist upon exact observations and records, but I do not think that we are to be more interested in records than we are concerning the influence of such studies upon the life of the pupil. And so I wish to repeat that I think there is enough of real value in this exercise, after all errors are omitted, to make it well worth recommending to every bird student and teacher.

Below are given brief extracts from reports made before the class:

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT.

By Ernestine Cooley.

The nest was found June 20, '08, in a clump of bushes and briars. It was loosely put together, being made of leaves and bark from the grape vines. Four little birds, probably four days old, were in the nest. On Saturday, July 4, the entire day was spent near the nest, the observations beginning at 4 a. m. and ending at 6:45 p. m. The parent birds being so nearly alike it was not always possible to distinguish between them, but occasionally both visited the nest at the same time, proving beyond a doubt that both brought food to the young.

During the morning the birds seemed annoyed by my presence and would often make considerable fuss before coming to the nest, but in the afternoon they would slip in quietly, and

required careful watching. Only twenty-four times during the day could I be sure that the birds fed their young. Three times I was sure it was the male, and eight times the female. The remaining sixteen times I was not sure which one. Each time I had an opportunity to see, the birds had a short worm or grub.

The average feeding was once in thirty-four minutes. The longest intervals were from 6:20-7:50; 9:05-10:50; and from 1:05-3:10. The following figures give the intervals in minutes for the entire day: 23, 12, 75, 90, 18, 7, 50, 105, 32, 28, 15, 60, 25, 100, 37, 13, 15, 20, 25, 15, 15, 20, and 5.

Twice during the day the male bird sang for some time in a nearby sycamore tree. At one time he gave a circus-like performance, flying butterfly-fashion from his tall perch to a low bush, and singing as he descended. The female spent a part of the time on the nest. The longest interval being from 9:05-9:45, and at 6:45 had come to the nest for the night.

I wish to note that this was the 4th of July and the shooting of firecrackers across the river may have disturbed the birds, for I am inclined to think they would otherwise have fed oftener. Perhaps Mr. Chat and his good wife were aware that the Fourth is a legal holiday.

#### WOOD THRUSH.

By Jay A. Myers.

These observations were made at the state hospital grounds, Athens, Ohio, July 11, '08. I had gone to watch the Wood Thrush feed its young and to learn some of its habits. The nest was about ten feet from the ground on a horizontal branch of a water beech. Two or three pieces of paper had been placed on the limb and upon this the nest had been constructed of dried grass, moss, leaves, and mud, and lined with fine roots. My observations began at 4 a. m. and lasted until 7 p. m. The feedings recorded were as follows:

From	4- 5 a. m.	.....	11 times
	5- 6	.....	16
	6- 7	.....	9