

The birds disappeared after completing their trials, but on April 29th, when the trees were visited again for observation, a partially completed nest was seen in the last elm. As closely as could be determined, the crotch the conjuncting limbs of which were about five inches in diameter was approximately fifty feet above the ground and formed an angle of about fifty degrees. This is the vicinity in which the birds were last seen during their hunt for a nest site. While the evidence is not positive that the present winged occupants, which at the moment were busily chasing sparrows from the tree, were the birds seen previously, the likelihood is great, for no other nest of any other species could be seen in the neighborhood.—L. J. MEULI, *Lake States Forest Experiment Station, St. Paul, Minn.*

The Song of the Yellow-breasted Chat.—The Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) will sit still in one position for half an hour, if not disturbed, and sing, mocking the Crested Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Bob-white, and many other nearby birds. He has the habit of saying "Ur ur ur ur ur ur ur" either eight or sixteen times, as a rule, similarly to the Red-headed Woodpecker, then may say it once or twice alone. One said "Ke-ouck" six times, almost like a little turkey, seeming to dare one to approach. If mocked, he repeats the call, often saying "ur" for a number of times, then "tut tut tut" about the same number of times, changing back then to "ur" again, first one way and then the reverse. I have never heard two chats sing exactly alike, so it takes some study to be able to tell them at once by their calls, although all of them generally say the above two notes occasionally, no matter what their song may be. The bird often sits in the top of a dead tree, with head up and tail bent down, for long periods of time, then will disappear and appear again, often at close range if not frightened.

If mimicked, he will approach cautiously, giving the note "kuk" in a soft tone. This note is used only at such times, when it is answered in the same tone. I have stayed in our car, calling and answering him, until he came right up to me and crept under the car and out on the other side, trying to find out what it was all about. I believe I was waving a red flag in his face when I spoke in his own tongue, which to me was not translated into English exactly, although I figured it out pretty well from his actions.

The Quail often says, "Bob, bob white", but the chat never does. He either says "Bob white" or just "white", in a hesitating and uncertain manner, as if not quite sure of himself. One chat said plainly, "cack" either three or six times, then "ur ur ur" from one to six times, then "ah ah ah". Although the chat, Brown Thrasher, and Catbird are seldom seen together, they of course may be in the same woods and within calling distance of each other. All of these birds are mockers. The Red-headed Woodpecker has a common call of "ur ur ur" given a number of times very similarly to the chat, but it never substitutes the "tut" or "cack" or "ah ah ah" intermittently, as does the chat. But the red-head often changes from the "ur", which he says on certain occasions, to "error, error, error" which is also just as commonly heard at times. This particular note is his species "trade mark", as I like to call any special markings, notes, habits, or other traits of birds. When the chat mimics other birds, even though he does a good job of it and fools one at times, if we wait a bit and continue to listen, sooner or later we can hear the "ur ur ur" interchanged with the "tut tut tut" or other variations of the chat's calls, which will give him away, and we may then stamp his "trade mark" upon him with certainty. If we look closely enough and study

birds for their own characteristics, we may learn the individual qualities belonging to them alone, and by which we may know them—their own “trade marks”.
—MRS. HORACE P. COOK, *Anderson, Ind.*

An Unusual Banding Experience.—The evening of December 24, 1934, was one of sleet, rain, and snow alternating. It was not very cold but was unusually disagreeable; consequently, wild life, as well as man, sought shelter early in the afternoon to avoid the battling elements. One section of my artificial shade, built for the purpose of protecting various native and medicinal plants, the shade proper being composed of brush and cornstalks, passes very close to my east study window. Ears of corn are often left attached to some of the stalks when placed on the frame-work and brush in the fall, and this furnishes considerable food each winter for five or six pairs of Eastern Cardinals (*Richmondia cardinalis cardinalis*) that are resident on the premises at all times. They appreciate this huge post-supported pile of “debris”, and, together with great numbers of Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*), utilize it as a roosting place throughout the winter months. This evening, however, the birds must have found their shelter insufficiently water-proof, for shortly after supper, as I sat reading at my desk, I was attracted by a bird fluttering against the window beside me. I opened it and a Slate-colored Junco fluttered in. I experienced little difficulty in capturing it, but, when preparing to band it, another sought admittance. This was granted and the two were banded. Shortly thereafter two more were taken in this manner, and both at about the same time, though one entered by the same route as the first two while the other was admitted through a window in an adjoining lighted room. Later in the evening another junco, the last, was taken in this room. Four of the five juncos were males.

After the last junco was taken I decided to try a little experiment. I placed lamps close to the opened windows and sent my brother-in-law, armed with an old broom, to disturb the birds' slumbers, hoping thereby to entice more of them inside. However, we had not the success that chance could boast, for the rudely awakened juncos shot bewilderingly out of the brush, fluttered upward and away. But one bird, a female Cardinal, the only Cardinal seen, though others were heard, was captured. The birds were banded, caged for the night and released the next morning. Hereafter I shall be tempted to light all rooms and open all windows on stormy nights.—GRANT HENDERSON, *Route 6, Greensburg, Ind.*

Behavior of a Pet Robin.—One cold, wet morning in June we found an unhappy young Robin. He was taken into the house, warmed, and then fed upon earthworms, hard-boiled yolk of eggs, flies, and chopped raisins. He thrived very well on that diet, and soon grew to full size. In a short time he became very tame, and would allow us to pick him up, answer our calls, and alight on our hands—and also on our heads, which we did not enjoy so well. He became especially fond of the master of the house, and would fly to meet him when he came in. When the master sat down to read, the bird would often sit on the back of his chair and talk to him in a low tone, or play with his hair and glasses, or, sometimes, go to sleep. He learned other ways of playing. When the young lady would flirt a handkerchief at him he would snap at it. If she threw the handkerchief over his head, he would back out, then run toward her and snap his bill. When he became tired he would fly up and alight on her head.

In the mornings he often would fly upstairs and sing until someone opened a bedroom door. Then he would enter and amuse himself in various ways. Some-