

Just as if these evidences were not sufficient to convince us of the fact, another is near at hand, for there are stratified deposits of clay, sand, and gravel exposed in the sides of a small gully which has been made by a little stream flowing across the road not five rods away.

In this home property bird-life, too, is abundant and readily studied. During July and August the warbling vireos whistled delightfully from the tops of the trees, the swallows darted swiftly after the numerous insects which filled the air above the shallow waters, the nuthatches and the black-and-white warblers searched the tree trunks for insect food, and the flycatchers made sallies from their perches on the lowest cottonwood limbs to catch insects on the wing. Besides these were several kinds of water fowl and shore birds down by the river, the woodpeckers, the kingfishers, the catbirds, the American goldfinches, the yellow warblers, the red-winged blackbirds down among the reeds, the phœbes, the chickadees, the domestic sparrows, the song sparrows, the chipping sparrows, and many others, all within a few rods of the observer.

Space forbids further notice of the many other interesting objects of study, and problems which the young student finds awaiting solution about his own home.

This paper is practically a plea for a closer study of our home surroundings, a study too often neglected by our nature students under the impression that nothing interesting or instructive can be found there. As a matter of fact, the home with its garden and lawn is the very best field for Nature study. We require to give more attention to the commonplace things and to understand their real significance in everyday life. And how many commonplace things there are to study when we actually *see* with our eyes and *hear* with our ears, and when we realize that every detail of the structure of a plant, animal or landscape has a history and a meaning, and how few of our commonplace studies are beyond the comprehension of the smallest child!

When we know the things close at hand, we shall understand the things at a distance. When we understand the life-relations of the inhabitants of our yards and gardens, we put ourselves