

## NATURE STUDY LESSONS

Describe the eggs as to shape, size and color.  
How many days does incubation last?  
Which does the incubating?  
Describe the appearance of the young in the nest.  
How long do the young remain in the nest?  
Count how frequently food is carried to the young.  
What kind of food is brought to them?  
How is the nest kept clean?  
Which parent procures the food for the nestlings?  
When is the first brood reared each summer?  
Is the same nest occupied for the different broods of a summer?

### (b) To the teacher.

The robins are usually busy with their nests by May. They usually select a tree in an orchard or near a house, but are not fond of nesting in the woods. Both parents assist in building the nest, carrying all the coarse grass, leaves and rootlets first. When a sufficient supply of this material has been accumulated they visit the nearest mud puddle, get their beaks full of mud and squirt it amongst the straw. This is repeated until the straw is impregnated with mud. Then the bird squats in the straw and rounds it into shape. It is then lined with finer grass. Usually four greenish blue eggs are laid and incubation continues for from eleven to fourteen days. The young in the nest have long beaks which, when wide open—as they usually are—have a yellow color. The parents are most diligent in feeding them. Each eats almost its own weight of food in a day. The parents are thus kept very busy, seeking for worms and larvae in the ground, as these are their chief food supply. In eleven days they are usually ready to leave the nest. This event takes place before the end of June. In July the female is incubating a second brood, while the male fathers the first family, which have a regular roosting place in some low, well wooded thicket. The first nest is never used for the second brood but a new one is constructed. The nests are sometimes very dirty, though the filth from the young is carried away by the parent and deposited on the ground, from its beak.