Resource and Supplies List
General Instructions
Advanced Study Option Explanation

- Swallows and swifts
- Catfish
- Jewelweed
- Prickly lettuce
- Cockroach
- Field horsetail
- Catbird
- Calcite, limestone, marble
- Chicken
- Turkey
- Hedgehog fungi
- Sapsucker
- Brooks

Charlotte Mason Style Exam Questions for Upper Level Students
Inside Preparation Work:

- Read pages 95-97 (Lesson #24) in the *Handbook of Nature Study*. I really love the narrative part of this lesson and I would encourage you to read it and highlight some interesting sections to share with your children before you go outside this week.
- Look up the range map on *All About Birds* to see if you have catbirds in your area. Here in California we don’t have catbirds but an alternate study could be the cowbird or the mockingbird.
- Listen to the catbird song and call on *All About Birds: Catbird*.
- View a video of the catbird: *All About Birds-Catbird*. Here are two more really interesting videos: *Catbird in Florida* and *Catbird in California*.

Listen for the distinctive mew call of the Gray Catbird, or for its imitation of several species during a long, seemingly improvised series of notes. When the male is singing, look for him at the top of a dense, tangled thicket. Gray Catbirds will also often come to investigate if you make a "pishing" sound when they are in the area.  *-from All About Birds*

Outdoor Hour Time:

- For this challenge, use your sense of hearing to listen for bird sounds. This can be done just about anywhere, even your own backyard. Teaching your children to listen carefully is a huge part of a successful nature study program so use birds as a way of practicing this life skill.
- Look for catbirds but make note of any birds that you see during your outdoor time. Have your child use as many descriptive words as possible if you happen to observe a bird. If they are new to bird study, make sure to give them some vocabulary like beak, tail, wing, feathers, etc.

Follow-Up Activity:

- Create a nature journal entry for the catbird or any other bird you studied this week. Have your child recall the sound of the catbird (use the link in the preparation section if necessary). Have them describe the catbird’s song and call. Do they think it sounds like a cat?
- If your family can provide a birdbath, set one up within sight of a window for observation. Keep the birdbath filled and then watch to see if you get any visitors like the catbird. Keep a list of birds you observe in your birdbath.
- **Advanced study**: Compare the catbird with the mockingbird.
Sketch the catbird.

Date:                  Bird Name:                  Location:

Facts about the catbird:

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
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__________________________________________________________________________
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__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
Field Guide Notes for the Gray Catbird

Voice: ______________________________
Habitat: _____________________________
Length: ______________________________
Wingspan: ____________________________
Food: ________________________________
Nest: ________________________________

Field Observations:

1. Look for the catbird’s field marks.
2. Learn the catbird’s silhouette.
3. Listen for the catbird’s song.

Sketch a catbird. Label the field marks. (Use a field guide.)
Catbird