Since the A.F.A. was first organized, I have felt an extreme need for the education of young people regarding the bird world. Last summer, during my sister's visit here, an excellent plan developed to put an educational program into effect. She suggested that it might be fun to set up her classroom with a breeding pair of finches. She also agreed to record her reactions so that we could anticipate what would occur in other classroom situations where the teacher was a true novice regarding birds.

Plans were made and I finally arrived

*The class with their skillful teacher.*
Interest was keen as children got involved in various bird projects.
A fantastic completed project with much pride in accomplishment.
who came to see the new feathered first graders. When our class reconvened we decided to take a nature walk. Our Lady of Grace School is fortunate enough to be situated in the midst of ten acres so we had many places to walk and look for birds. The class enthusiasm was great and each child looked everywhere for birds. One student remembered where he had once seen a hawk so off we went to search for the hawk. We found the tree in question but the hawk was gone. Under the tree, however, we found the remains of a small bird that had been a meal for something. This was another good lesson.

When the walk ended we returned to the classroom and the class worked on a large mural. We had prepared a blown up sketch of a finch, a nest, and numerous branches and leaves of a tree. The very basic parts of the bird were to be identified with a magic marker. Each child had certain letters to trace. One student traced the outline of the bird and others colored in the branches. While this was going on each of the remaining students traced and cut out a green construction paper leaf. Eventually all of the tracing and coloring was done and the leaves were pasted on. The completed mural was hung and was beautiful.

The last project for the day was music appreciation. I had come across a record adapted for the first grade that had on it the “Ballet of the Unhatched Chick” by Moussorgsky-Ravel. We played the record and the class tried to guess what was happening. The guessing fell immediately into the bird area. After several playings and a little coaching one little girl realized that the sound was that of an unhatched chick. We then sang two songs and school let out.

We departed that day with many hugs and goodbyes. I was more than pleased with the whole project and if another such opportunity comes up I’ll not hesitate to do it all over again.

The classroom educational program on birds is still in full swing. By phone Claire told me that the birds have since been named. The two males are called Roland and Happy. The females are Angel Face and Tweedy Bird. Roland and Tweedy have nested and laid six eggs. At this writing Happy and Angel have one egg.

A nature walk sharpened the powers of observation and senses.