

ARDEA

TIJDSCHRIFT DER NEDERLANDSCHE ORNITHOLOGISCHE VEREENIGING

JAARGANG 38

DECEMBER 1950

AFLEVERING 3/4

Daily routines of the Great Tit, *Parus m. major* L.

by

H. N. KLUIJVER

Introduction	99
Part 1. Times of rising and retiring for the day	100
§ 1. The reproductive period	102
§ 2. Autumn and winter	107
Part 2. Time spent on and off the eggs	114
§ 3. The laying period	115
§ 4. The incubation period	118
Part 3. Feeding	122
§ 5. The feeding of the female by the male	122
§ 6. The feeding of the nestlings	124

Introduction.

The aim of the observations described in this paper was to gather information about the time which is occupied daily by various important activities in the life of the bird, such as roosting, feeding, brooding etc. Information was also wanted concerning the time at which these various activities start and finish.

It is clear that these activities are influenced by both internal and external factors, and further that they are closely related to each other. The beginning and termination of sleep are for instance related to the rising and setting of the sun, and also to cloudiness, wind-speed, rain-fall and the hunger of the bird. Similar consideration apply to the time taken daily in the search for food, in brooding, in singing and in other activities. It was our aim to trace out these various interrelationships in order to achieve a further understanding of the daily routines. Only those activities on which systematic observations were carried out are treated in this paper.

I am greatly indebted to J. A. EYGENRAAM, O. BRIEDÉ and F. DROST who yielded their observations for this study, to Dr. N. TINBERGEN and Dr. L. TINBERGEN, for valuable criticism and to G. VAN ROSSEM and Dr. D. LACK for help in translating it into English.