

2021

Why Are Crickets So Loud At The End Of Summer?

Kate N

Winslow Junior High School, 25knichols@aos92.org

Follow this and additional works at: <https://findings.gmri.org/journal>

Recommended Citation

N, Kate (2021) "Why Are Crickets So Loud At The End Of Summer?," *Findings from the Field*: Vol. 4 , Article 15.

Available at: <https://findings.gmri.org/journal/vol4/iss1/15>

This Nature Notes is brought to you for free and open access by Findings from the Field. It has been accepted for inclusion in Findings from the Field by an authorized editor of Findings from the Field.

Why Are Crickets So Loud At The End Of Summer?

While sitting outside for my field journal in September, I couldn't help but notice the crickets. Every time I went out, they were always so loud! I remember hearing them at night in the summer, but in September they were very loud during the day! During my observations, I never saw any crickets. I only heard them, and that was enough. I made all my observations sitting in a cow pasture in Winslow, under some pine trees. I was next to a pond and the woods were behind me. I made my observations around 2 o'clock. The noise that crickets make in the fall is for a good reason, and it's actually necessary. For starters, I'll explain how male crickets (the ones that chirp) make the noise. They rub their wings together, even though many people wrongly believe they use their legs! Male crickets chirp to find a mate and carry out their life cycle. They call a female over and when she arrives they lay their eggs.



The louder and more intense the male crickets chirp, the more attractive that the females will find them (or that's what the male crickets think). There's a call for attracting females from far away, one for close-up females, and there's even an after-mating song. Crickets also chirp to intimidate other rival males. Some of a male's more romantic songs could make nearby females start fighting each other. I observed that the crickets were very loud and got gradually louder throughout the time that I was observing. The noise is amplified in the fall because it is the crickets' last push to reproduce before winter.

The frequency of their chirping actually varies according to the temperature. For instance, the higher the temperature, the faster the chirping rate is. This could explain the more elongated chirping that you sometimes hear on autumn nights. While I was doing my field journal I went out on some days that very hot and some days that were chilly. I did slightly notice the frequency change between those two types of days. Crickets are born in the spring, they mature in late summer and they die in the fall. After researching this topic, I started to wonder what crickets looked like while

they made their noises. I looked up a video and it's fascinating! It's cool to see wildlife mannerisms up close.

Citations:

Why Do Crickets Chirp in Late Summer Months in Rollingwood, TX? Cricket Control & More

ATexPestAdmin

<http://www.atexpestmanagement.com/why-do-crickets-chirp-in-late-summer-months-in-rollingwood-tx-cricket-control-more/#:~:text=Why%20Do%20Crickets%20Chirp%20Loudly,noise%20that%20you%20are%20hearing.&text=The%20noise%20is%20actually%20necessary,why%20the%20males%20are%20chirping.>

The sound of crickets indicates fall is near: Press Run

Joan Rusek

https://www.cleveland.com/cleveland-heights/2014/08/the_sound_of_crickets_indicate.html

11 Cute Facts About Crickets

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/83942/11-cute-facts-about-crickets>

How Long Do Crickets Chirp?

Brown

<https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2018/08/15/who-long-to-crickets-chirp-good-question/>