

NATURE STUDY LESSONS

2. GENERAL APPEARANCE OF THE BIRD.

(a) Observations to be made by pupils.

How many inches long is it from the tip of the beak to the end of the longest tail feather? (Pupils will make some very bad estimations and it is well to put a rule at the distance the bird was seen and compare the length of the bird with the length of the inch marks on the rule.)

Describe the shape and appearance of the beak.

Notice the number of toes and their position.

Are the legs well developed or small?

What is the color of the top and sides of the head?

Find white on three places on the robin.

What is the general color of the back?

What is the color of the ring around the eye?

Notice a spot just above the eye.

What is the ground color of the throat and what are the colors of the stripes on this ground color?

Notice the extent of the red on the breast.

What other birds have similarly colored breasts?

When it flies what color is seen on the tips of the outer tailfeathers?

What is the color of the beak?

In the spring notice a difference in brightness in the colors of different individuals.

In what respects do the duller females differ in color from the brighter males?

How do the autumn birds differ in color from those of the spring?

How do the young after leaving the nest differ in color from their parents?

(b) To the teacher.

It is well that pupils should know the exact length of the robin, so that the length of other birds can be estimated by comparing them with it. It is about ten inches long. The beak is of moderate length, and straight. It is yellow in the spring, but becomes horn-colored towards autumn. In the male the top and back of the