

Lesson 10.

CLASSIFICATION OF MIGRATING BIRDS

1. CLASSES OF MIGRANTS.

(a) Observations to be made by pupils.

Name birds that remain here throughout the summer.

Name some birds that only remain for a few days or weeks.

Name some birds that reside here during the winter.

Name birds that dwell here permanently.

What birds pass overhead northward in the spring and southward in the autumn?

Do any move in the reverse direction?

Are any birds liable to appear erratically at any season of the year?

(b) To the teacher.

Almost all birds spend the winter and summer in different regions, and they always spend the summer further to the north than they do the winter. The distance between the region of summer and winter residence may be only a few hundred miles, or it may be several thousand. The golden plover spends its short summer far beyond the Arctic circle, while the winter is spent well past the equator in South America. The horned lark, which hatches its young in Labrador, will winter with us in southern Canada. Thus we have different birds travelling very different distances during migration, and we have those spending their summer in all latitudes, from the most northern lands down to the equator. Suppose a species spends the summer in Labrador and the winter in Ohio and New York, then it would be called a summer resident in Labrador, a winter resident in Ohio and New York, and a bird of passage in the intermediate regions. Sometimes the summer and winter homes overlap in an intermediate region. For instance, our ruby-throated hummingbird breeds in the summer from Labrador to Florida and spends the winter from Florida to Central America. From Labrador to Florida it would be a summer resident, from Florida to Central America it would be a winter resident, while in Florida it would be a permanent