

Britain offers, he remains the year round, but the majority of individuals winter in southern Europe, Persia, and north Africa. The song-thrush is another palaearctic form, breeding eastward to the Yenisei Valley, and in Norway wandering beyond the Arctic Circle. He has a near relative inhabiting northern and western China, known as Père David's thrush, in honour of a good monk who devoted much time to the study of ornithology.

There are two spotted-breasted thrushes restricted each to a certain island, and found nowhere else: the Anjuan thrush, inhabiting one of the islands of the Comoro group, lying between Madagascar and the African coast; and the St. Thomas thrush, from the island of that name, in the Gulf of Guinea.

In the New World the nearctic, or North American region, possesses several species of spotted-breasted thrushes breeding throughout its forest area. Notable among these are the wood thrush, whose mellow, rippling music we know and love so well; the hermit, the olive-backed, the gray-cheeked, and tawny thrushes—spring and fall migrants passing through our woods in May and October.

In contrast to the spotted-breasted species, there are a number of thrushes, and among them the robin, which are solidly coloured underneath, a few spots being confined to the throat. This difference in colour-pattern has undoubtedly arisen far back in the history of the group from some environing influence. The young of these solid-coloured thrushes are all spotted like the rest, and, since the young of all animals tend to revert toward ancestral forms and conditions, the spotted-breasted species may be looked upon as representing the more primitive type of thrush. A further proof of this is found in the two spotted breasted thrushes inhabit-

ing the islands above mentioned, which from their isolated habitat are undoubtedly of considerable antiquity as species. Our robin is the only representative of the thrushes with solid-coloured breasts found in North America, but a host of them occur in South America and some in Africa.

This contrast between the northern and southern continents of the New World, or, to speak zoologically, between the nearctic and neotropical regions, in the number of species of thrush, has its solution in the peculiarity and variety of physical conditions offered by South America. The ranges of the species inhabiting the great forests of the equatorial zone are in the majority of instances restricted to comparatively limited areas. The varied conditions offered by high mountain-ranges and deep, low-lying forests, tend to the creation of new varieties or local races, which are consequently limited to certain narrow areas, and a particular species is often thus represented by several extreme forms. In temperate North America, on the other hand, the fewer species are kept true by migration, which tends to equalize surrounding conditions.

In northern South America, the Valley of the Amazon, and the forests of Brazil, three distinct varieties of the white-throated thrush occur. The common South American thrush, a comparatively widely ranging species, reaching southward to Chili, has an extreme form in the north-west. The Sabian thrush is another species which has split up into several forms under the influence of local conditions. No region in the world is so rich in the number and variety of its passerine birds. In the south temperate portion of the continent the species of thrush are more uniform, and very few varieties are found.

Africa has several well-defined representatives of the solid-coloured breasted thrushes. The Zanzibar