

how many prowlers are on the look out for such tempting tid-bits as unfledged sparrows. So you must look for his nest in some old meadow or grassy pasture land, possibly you may find it in an orchard amid the long grass, or in the city park, or even by the country roadside. You will find it well hidden in a tuft of grass or under cover of a mossy stump, and when found it will be but another edition of an old story, the same loosely constructed cup of vegetable fibres that all the sparrows build. Junco is somewhat more particular than others of his clan about the lining of his home, and generally supplies feathers for that purpose, though I have found hair and fur made use of when they were more convenient.

His song is so much like the trilled whistle of the chipping sparrow that you may not be able to distinguish them without some effort, but you will soon learn that they do differ.

In costume our bird is not at all sparrow-like. His upper parts and neck and breast are dark slate or blackish ash in color, and his belly is white. His bill and outer tail-feathers are white also. In winter the ash color becomes grayish, and sometimes bears a brownish tinge, and in this plumage the male is very like the female and young. You will recognize the bird by this description, and understand that an old friend is hidden under this new name. The bird that the modern authorities have re-named slate-colored junco is none other than the snowbird—the “black snowbird,” or “white-billed snowbird,” as the bird is often called.

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## ROBIN.

“American robin” this species has been named, to distinguish it from robin of England. These two birds belong to different families, for while the old country robin is a warbler its American namesake is a member of the thrush family. “Migratory thrush” our friend has been named by some writers, and for scientific use he has been labelled *turdus migratorius* and *merula migratoria*.

Just why our robin was singled out as *the* migratory thrush is not clear, for of all the American thrushes the robin is the least inclined to excess in that particular habit. As a matter of fact the bird is