

## THE ROBIN

During the summer has each pair of robins a district of their own to search for food?

Do the robins collect in flocks in the autumn?

At what time do they depart?

Where and how do they spend the winter?

### (b) To the teacher.

The robins appear in numbers in southern Canada some time in March. A few individuals remain throughout the winter living on berries, and the number that do this appears to depend upon the abundance of these berries. Such birds are liable to be seen almost any time during the winter, and their presence accounts for the early records that appear in the spring. The birds arrive in flocks and the males usually precede the females by a few days. The flocks rapidly break up as each seeks his mate. The birds come back to the same locality from year to year. Mrs. Comstock speaks of one female that nested for eight years in the same garden. Each pair appears to have their own region, which they search for food, and no trespassers are allowed. In the autumn they gather again in flocks and in November move to the South in immense numbers; they spend the winter in Florida and other southern states. Here, while their stray brothers who have remained are shivering in protected swamps, they hold high carnival in the sunshine. They remain in flocks and live chiefly on the wild fruits found on the shrubs and bushes of the district.

## 3. THE OTHER THRUSHES.

The robin is really a thrush and has many features in common with the other thrushes. Our most common members of the family are the bluebird, Wilson's thrush, hermit thrush and olive-backed thrush. These live largely in the woods (except the bluebird), come frequently to the ground and have beaks similar to the robin. They are all good songsters and all migrate and live in flocks at some seasons of the year.