

THE BROWN THRASHER.



THE Brown Thrasher, commonly known hereabout as the Brown Thrush, is not very generally known, otherwise it would not occasionally be said that we have no song birds in Canada. Although not a rare bird, he is not common throughout Ontario. Here, at the foot of Lake Ontario, seems to be a favorite locality for him. I have known him by his annual summer residence here, for over a quarter of a century. Early one morning last June, while walking through Cataract Cemetery, I had the pleasure of listening to three individuals, perched on tree tops, not more than 100 rods apart, and have no doubt the mate of each was engaged in domestic affairs, not far away.

I have often heard the "mavis" in the forest skirts of the British Isles, when it seemed as if he had been created for the very purpose of cheering the

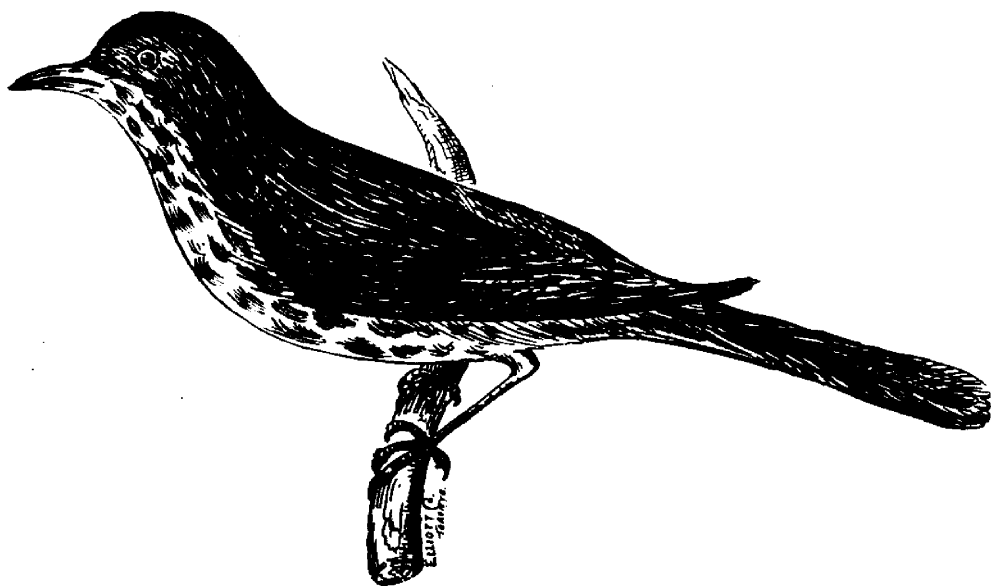


FIG. 85.—HARPORHYNCHUS RUFUS.

hearts of the human race; yet not more cheering is his music, than the melodious strains of this Canadian songster. We claim him as Canadian, because here he is born and bred, although he stays with us less than half the year, coming about the beginning of May and retiring in September.

His grandest brilliancy of expression is generally given early in the morning, and that, doubtless, is partly the reason why he is known by so few. The