

schoolboys than that of some others ; and, while they will exult in plundering a Jay's or a Cat Bird's, a general sentiment of respect prevails on the discovery of a Robin's. Whether he owes not some little of this veneration to the well-known and long-established character of his namesake in Britain, by a like association of ideas, I will not pretend to determine. He possesses a good deal of his suavity of manners ; and almost always seeks shelter for his young in summer, and subsistence for himself in the extremes of winter, near the habitations of man.

"The Robin inhabits the whole of North America, from Hudson's Bay to Nootka Sound, and as far south as Georgia, though they rarely breed on this side of the mountains farther south than Virginia. Mr. Forster says, that about the beginning of May they make their appearance in pairs at the settlements of Hudson's Bay, at Severn River ; and adds a circumstance altogether unworthy of belief, viz., that, at Moose Fort, they build, lay, and hatch, in fourteen days ! but that at the former place, four degrees more north, they are said to take twenty-six days. They are also common in Newfoundland, quitting these northern parts in October. The young, during the first season, are spotted with white on the breast, and in that time have a good deal of resemblance to the Fieldfare of Europe.

"Mr. Hearne informs us, that the red-breasted Thrushes are commonly called, at Hudson's Bay, the Red-Bird—by some, the Blackbirds, on account of their note—and by others, the American Fieldfares ; that they make their appearance at Churchill River about the middle of May, and migrate to the south early in the fall. They are seldom seen there but in pairs ; and are never killed for their flesh, except by the Indian boys.

"Several authors have asserted, that the red-breasted Thrush cannot brook the confinement of the cage, and never sings in that state. But, except the Mocking Bird, (*Turdus polyglottus*.) I know of no native bird which is so frequently domesticated, agrees better with confinement, or sings in that state more agreeably than the Robin. They generally suffer severely in moulting time, yet often live to a considerable age. A lady, who resides near Tarrytown, on the banks of the Hudson, informed me, that she raised and kept one of these birds for seventeen years ; which sang as well, and looked as sprightly, at that age as ever, but was at last unfortunately destroyed by a cat. The morning is their favorite time for song. In passing through the streets of our large cities, on Sunday, in the months of April and May, a little after daybreak, the general silence which usually prevails without at that hour, will enable you to distinguish every house where one of these songsters resides, as he makes it then ring with his music."

The Robin belongs to the family TURDINÆ or Thrushes, of which there are three genera and a goodly number of species known in North America. In the classification of Agassiz & Gould, this family belongs to the order *Insectores*. The generic name is from *Turdus*, Latin, a Thrush. The specific name *migratorius*, (incorrectly printed *migratorious* at the commencement of this article.) is derived from the Latin verb *migro*, to remove from one place to another.