

Lesson 5

IS THE ROBIN A USEFUL BIRD ?

1. ITS FOOD.

(a) Observations to be made by pupils.

What kinds of food are available for the robin when it arrives first in the spring?

Observe what it actually eats at this period.

When the ground has thawed, find what it searches the lawns for.

Notice its method of pulling the worms out without breaking them in two.

Watch carefully if it gets any grubs or cut worms from the ground.

During what kind of weather are they most successful in procuring earthworms?

Do they secure all their animal food from the ground?

What change takes place in the character of their food during the summer?

What fruits do they chiefly attack?

Do they prefer tame or wild fruit, where both are available?

Suggest a method by which the fruit farmer might protect his fruit against the robin.

What kind of fruit do the young eat?

Do the parents bring them any fruit?

Give an estimate of the number of feedings each young one receives during a day, and of the total food consumed during this period.

If any robins remain during the winter, try to find what kind of food they consume.

(b) To the teacher.

When the robins first arrive in the spring the ground is still frozen and they are unable to get their favorite food. At this time they live chiefly on the berries still to be found on the shrubs and bushes. Those that remain over during the winter are largely