

Our Feathered Friends, XI—Thrushes and Vireos.

THRUSHES.

BESIDES the Robin described in the first part of this series of papers on our birds, there are two others of the Thrush family which visit our Island during the summer, but they are rare visitors, and even these, on account of their secluded habits, are not often seen. They are the Hermit Thrush and Wilson's Thrush. The latter is sometimes known by other names such as the Veery or the Tawny Thrush. They are smaller than the Robin, scarcely exceeding seven inches in length. Both have the breast spotted with brown, and underneath from the breast they are white or almost white. They are then much alike in the markings of the under parts and the difference in the marking above is no greater. Wilson's is of a uniform color, tawny or reddish from crown to tip of tail, while the Hermit is more inclined to olive on the head and this color shades into reddish brown or rufus on rump and tail. On account of the similarity in their colors it is difficult to distinguish them without the aid of a field glass, as sufficiently near approach is not often attainable, and this difficulty is greater in the case of the Hermit-Thrush which is more retired than its relative, Wilson's Thrush. Besides we do not always get a view of the back of either of these Thrushes, though we may be near enough to see satisfactorily any part presented to view, for they are often perched far up on a branch near the top of a lofty tree. But a careful inspection will show that there are some differences in the markings underneath. Wilson's has the chin and throat almost of the same color as the back, and the spots on the breast are small; the Hermit has the brown spots large, and there are small, unmarked areas on the throat and breast. They frequent different or dissimilar localities. Wilson's is found in small groves and amongst widely scattered trees. The Hermit occupies the deepest recesses of a forest, generally a swamp or the vicinity of one. But