

summer and autumn. It arrives in Canada from the South in the beginning of April, and while numbers of them remain with us, others extend their migration to the far-north, where, as well as in Canada and the United States, they breed. It received its common name from the first European emigrants, from a fanciful resemblance to the *Robin Red-breast* of the British Isles. This latter bird, however, is a member of a different genus, and in systematic works on Ornithology, is called *Erythaca rubecula*, or *Sylvia rubecula*. Our bird is not, properly speaking, a Robin, but a Thrush.— They spend the winter season in the southern countries of North America, but in summer, seem to spread over the whole continent. When we consider that two or three pairs may be seen in an hour's walk anywhere in the country, and that they are equally numerous all over the vast regions where they breed, some idea may be formed of their numbers in the Southern States: in the winter, when the whole race is gathered together in a small space.— In Canada the largest flocks are to be seen late in the autumn, when the northern birds are passing through on their way to the South. In the Hudson's Bay Territories, Sir John Richardson says :—" The male is one of the loudest and most assiduous of the songsters that frequent the fur countries, beginning his chant immediately on his arrival. Within the arctic circle, the woods are silent in the bright light of noon-day; but towards midnight when the sun travels near the horizon, and the shades of the forest are lengthened, the concert commences, and continues till six or seven in the morning." Its song consists of a number of loud warbling notes, delivered a few at each breath. Its call while feeding or hopping along the ground or fences, consists of several ejaculations, *pwee-shit, pwee-shit, pemp-pemp*, uttered frequently, and with much spirit.

The following is Wilson's account of the bird as observed in the United States :—

" The name of this bird bespeaks him a bird of passage, as are all the different species of Thrushes we have; But the one we are now describing, being more unsettled, and continually roving about from one region to another, during fall and winter, seems particularly entitled to the appellation.— Scarce a winter passes but innumerable thousands of them are seen in the lower part of the whole Atlantic states, from New Hampshire to Carolina, particularly in the neighbourhood of our towns; and, from the circumstance of their leaving, during that season, the country to the north-west of the great range of the Alleghany, from Maryland northward, it would appear that they not only migrate from north to south, but from west to east, to avoid the deep snows that generally prevail on these high regions, for at least four months in the year.

" The Robin builds a large nest, often on an apple-tree, plasters it in the inside with mud, and lines it with hay or fine grass. The female lays five eggs, of a beautiful sea-green. Their principal food is berries, worms, and caterpillars. Of the first he prefers those of the sour gum, (*Nyssa sylvatica*.) So fond are they of gum-berries, that, wherever there is one of these trees covered with fruit, and flocks of Robins in the neighborhood, the