

three species the ordinary observer will be likely to notice in this latitude and of these the robin is the only species that attracts general attention. The robin is well known from Labrador to Mexico and by the same name. The other two of the five are not familiar in the haunts of man and seldom are heard in town.

The Wilson thrush, or "veery," has queer unearthly notes to its song, which I cannot describe. It is thought by some to be the peer of all thrushes, but I do not think so. It is a little larger than the hermit and about the size of the largest English sparrow. The hermit is the smallest of all. All have brown backs and white breasts, speckled with dark brown spots. The hermit thrush is reddest on the tail, and his breast is finely spotted. The "veery" has a tawny or reddish brown back without any change of color at the head or tail, and is slightly spotted on the sides of his breast. The hermit builds a nest in the depth of the dark woods, on the ground, of moss, coarse grasses, pine needles and other materials of this kind that can be found in the woods; the "veery" about the same.

Birds are of inestimable value to mankind. Without their unremitting services our gardens and fields would be laid waste by insect pests. But we owe them a greater debt even than this, for the study of birds tends to develop some of the best attributes and impulses of our nature. Among them we find examples of generosity, unselfish devotion, of the love of mother for offspring and other estimable qualities. Their industry, patience and ingenuity excite our admiration; their songs inspire us with love of music and poetry; their beautiful plumage and graceful manners appeal to our esthetic sense; their