

ORNITHOLOGY.

NOTES ON OTTAWA BIRDS.

In publishing "Notes on Ottawa Birds," we hope to interest the young in the study of our birds and to assist the older members of the Field-Naturalists' Club, who have not made a special study of birds, to identify the various species when they are seen and heard. The distinguishing characteristics, the song, the nesting, and the habits of our birds will be prominent in these notes, which, with other interesting facts regarding them, will, we trust, make profitable reading.

W. T. MACCOUN.

Associate Editor Ornithology.

THE THRUSHES.—To one familiar with the magnificent songs, the "argent utterances," of our native thrushes, any plain description of them must seem entirely inadequate, and the pen of a poet should be employed, and has been, many times, in telling of these most poetic of all our Canadian forest voices. The different members of the thrush family speak one language it is true, but it is not difficult to distinguish their songs one from another. While that of the veery, which, by-the-way, is not unlike "veer-y veer-y, veer-y," may be compared to three or four rippling waves in a rapid falling gradually downwards, that of the olive-back is a cascade falling upwards, if one may speak of such a thing, and the hermit's song also rises from the first note; but the hermit begins with one clear note, followed as a rule by a brief pause, which emphasizes it; at any rate without the impetuous frothy upward rush of the beginning of the oliveback's song, and the hermit's is a clearer utterance all through more nearly reducible to musical notation. The song of the wood thrush is not likely to be confused with the other three; it is more self-asserting and less meditative, and the notes ring with a bell-like quality which the others hardly possess; then, when one is near by, a faint cluck can always be heard im-