

and when not singing spends most of his time in the thickets, often on the ground scratching among the dead leaves.

The love of parade which this bird displays at times is characteristic of the entire family to which it belongs—a family which embraces the catbird and mockingbird. By voice as well as by habits the thrasher proves his affinity to this group, though he lacks the power of mimicry which distinguishes his more artistic cousins.

The body of the thrasher is of much the same size as a robin's, but the thrasher's bill being the longer and its tail much longer, the bird, though measuring only eleven inches from tip to tip, appears somewhat larger than a robin. It is readily distinguished from other species by its curved bill, long tail and rich rufous color. The under parts are whitish, tinged with rufous, and marked on the sides with spots of brown. On the wings are two bars of white, edged with brown.

The nest has been found in various situations. Generally it is on the branch of a low shrub in a dense copse; often it is placed on the ground, while an occasional pair select for a nesting site a branch that swings many feet above the heads of men. The nest itself is a loosely constructed affair of much bulk. It is formed exteriorly of dried grass, twigs, roots, weeds and such like material, and is lined with fine grass; sometimes the lining is made of horse-hair or feathers. The female usually lays four eggs, but sets of three have satisfied some few mothers, while as many as six eggs have been discovered in other nests. The ground color of the eggs is whitish with a tinge of green or of buff, and they are profusely marked with minute spots of reddish brown. The nest is built about the middle of May, and by the time the young are hatched their home is securely hidden by the foliage, but the parents do not trust to this protection alone and are ever watchful for the safety of the brood. One or the other is sure to be on guard, and the approach of any intruder—man, cat, or snake—is marked at considerable distance. If the enemy be a cat, it is attacked with such fury that puss usually retreats, while curious youths of the nest-hunting persuasion are enticed away by divers artifices.

These birds are not plentiful in any part of Canada, and are only met with in parts of Ontario and near Montreal, being most