

feathers crown the head, coal black in the males and a deep, reddish brown in the females, the general color being gray, dark above and light below. It has a touch of the mocking bird in its nature, and often mars the beauty of its own song by introducing the less harmonious notes of other singers. It is retiring in its habits, and will seldom sing unless concealed from observation.

The gray thrush, or song thrush, as it is usually called both in English and German (*singdrossel*), is scientifically known as the *turdus musicus*, L., and is one of the most charming of feathered songsters. Its voice is rich and mellow, and his song, long sustained, is remarkable for the purity of its tone and the variety of its notes. It sings from early in the spring until late in the fall, and will, probably, become the best known of all these strangers from across the sea. It has some of the powers of the mocking bird, and can not only imitate the song, but the mannerisms as well, of other birds, such as the robin, and in captivity has been taught to imitate the notes of the flute to such an extent as to render the "Blue Bells of Scotland" perfectly. In color it is strongly marked and will be easily recognized. The upper surface is of varying shades of brown, the chin quite white, the abdomen gray white, and the throat, breast, flanks and sides of the neck yellow, thickly studded with dark brown spots. In size it is about nine inches long. The black thrush, or *schwarzdrossel* (*turdus merula*, L.) is intensely blue-black, almost uniform throughout, with a very bright yellow beak. In general appearance it much resembles the black-bird of America, which is also, as well as the robin, a member of the thrush family, and will be easily distinguished from its less sable hued companions. Its song is full, mellow and musical, occasionally being heard at night in rivalry with the nightingale. It is something of a mimic of other birds in its native state, and in captivity has been taught to whistle tunes with much force and accuracy. It is solitary in its habits, and does not congregate in great flocks, as do the common blackbirds of America.

Another member of the thrush family is the ring ouzel, or *ringdrossel* (*turdus torquatus*, L.), though as a song bird it is far inferior to the others. Its name was bestowed because of the broad band of white on the throat, the rest of the plumage being of a very dark brown, bordering on black. In size it is about eleven inches long.

Of finches there are five varieties, the chaffinch, goldfinch, bullfinch, greenfinch and the linnet, and although they are very pretty and intelligent birds they are not such charming singers as the thrushes. The chaffinch (*fringilla coelebs*, L.), is called *edelfink* by the Germans. It is a field bird, and often congre-

gates in great flocks about the hedges. Its note is a merry kind of whistle and its call note is very musical, sounding something like "pinck," which is a common name for the bird. In coloring it is very pretty and will be easily recognized. At the base of its short bill the feathers are jet black, as also are the wings. The top of the head and back of the neck are slate gray, the back is chestnut, and the sides of the head, the chin, throat and breast are a ruddy chestnut. The wing feathers are tipped with white, and the tail is mixed black and white feathers. The goldfinch, or *stieglitz* (*fringilla carduelis*, L.) is also a beautifully-colored bird. A crimson band at the base of the beak, a black streak from the top of the head to the shoulders and on wings and tail, white on the sides of the face, back of the neck and tips of wing and tail, and a gray-brown on back, breast, throat and abdomen are its chief colorings. The goldfinch is a favorite bird with fanciers, and is one of the most intelligent and easily domesticated of all wild birds. It is easily instructed in tricks and has been taught to do most wonderful things in captivity. The siskin, or aberdevine, also called greenfinch, though not the bird regularly known by that name, is called *zeisig* by the Germans, and is classified as *fringilla spinus* L. It has a peculiarly sweet voice, though not as accomplished a singer as some of its companions. It lives in flocks of eight or ten, and is very active in its habits, flitting constantly from place to place and uttering its sweet call notes frequently. Its general color is an olive green, though the top of the head is black, and a sulphur yellow is found behind the ear and on the neck and breast and edges of the wings and tail. The linnet (*fringilla cannabina*, L.) called by the Germans *hanfling*, is known both as the brown linnet and the redfinch, the latter because of the vermillion-tipped feathers of its crown. The face and back of the neck are gray-brown, the back a warm chestnut, the wings black tipped with white, the chin and throat gray, the breast bright red dappled slightly with brown, the abdomen gray-brown and the tail black edged with white.

One of the finest singers and most easily domesticated is the bullfinch (*pyrrhula Europaea*, or *rubicilla*), known to the Germans as *gimpel* or *dompfaff*. It is very retiring and shy in its habits, but when domesticated exhibits marked affection for those who care for it. In its wild state it is not a singer of much consequence, but its imitative qualities are so good and its voice so flexible that it can be taught to sing tunes, its tones resembling those of the clarinet. For this purpose the birds are caught while young, and are carefully instructed, a flageolet being the most satisfactory instrument to use. It is very important that they be kept away from other birds,