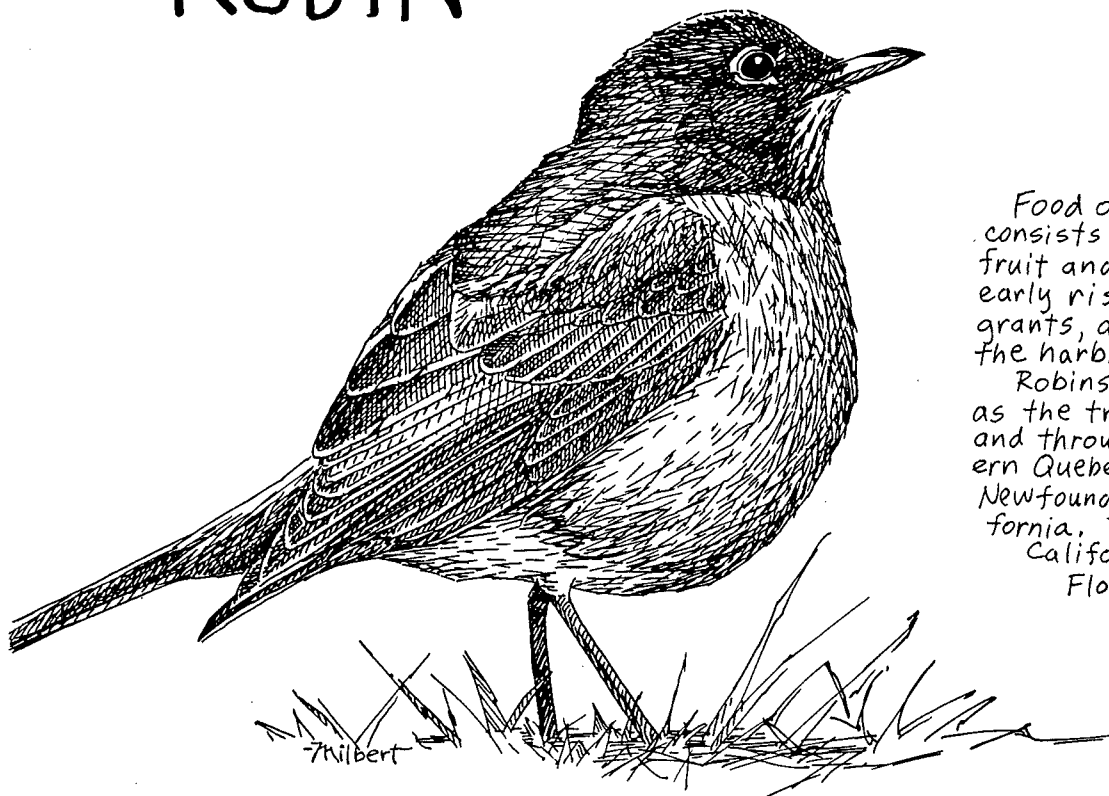


River Bend Naturalists Notebook

Presented by: RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER, Faribault, MN 55021

AMERICAN ROBIN



Food of American Robins consists of worms and berries, fruit and insects. Robins are early risers and early migrants, and are considered the harbingers of spring.

Robins nest as far north as the tree line in Alaska and through Canada to northern Quebec, Labrador and Newfoundland, south to California. They winter south to California, Southern Texas, Florida and Mexico.

The American Robin is an early spring migrant, usually arriving in Southern Minnesota about the first week of March. It is common to woodland openings, pastures, orchards, groves, parks and backyards. By April nesting has started. The blue-green eggs (Sometimes called sky-blue colored eggs) are laid one a day, until four are laid, on occasion five. Incubation takes between eleven and fourteen days. The young stay in the nest about ten or twelve days. The second nesting begins shortly after

the young have left the nest, with either a new nest built, or the old one relined and used again.

Robins prefer to nest in the crotch of a tree, about 10-12 feet up from the ground. However, in the absence of trees in a new suburban area, a Robin shelf placed under a roof overhang may attract them to your yard to nest.

-text by Orwin A. Rustad