

book of Birds of N. E. America describes it as follows: Top of the head and a wide stripe through the eye to the nape, shining black; a white line over the eye; upper parts, bluish gray; no black marks on the secondaries; outer tail-feathers, black, with white patches near their tips; middle ones, bluish gray; throat, white; rest of the under parts, ochraceous-buff or rufous. This bird has an evident partiality for pine trees.

2. They are different birds. The Song Sparrow (*Melospiza fasciata*) is so common in Eastern North America, that it is not correct to call it the "Canadian" Song Sparrow. Its song is heard throughout the season, and when once known cannot be mistaken for that of any other bird. The White-throated Sparrow or Peabody-bird (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) has a square white patch across the throat, while the Song Sparrow's throat is streaked with black on the sides, with wedge-like black or brownish streaks on the breast which tend to form a patch in the centre. Its plaintive melody is variously interpreted, commonly as "Tom Pea-bod-y, pea-bod-y, pea-bod-y or, oh Can-a-da, Can-a-da, Can-a-da."

CURRENT EVENTS.

The principality of Lichtenstein, which, though it claims to be an independent state, is so small that it is generally omitted from a list of the countries of Europe, has now for the first time issued postage stamps for itself. Heretofore it has used Austrian stamps.

Cuba is now one of the countries with which we have a two cent postage rate.

An agreement has been reached by France and Spain in respect to their division of territory in Northern Africa. The portion of Morocco nearest to Gibraltar, of course falls to Spain; while the French sphere of influence will include the western regions. Tetuan will become the capital of Spanish Morocco, and Fez the capital of French Morocco. Tangier will be neutral territory.

The new revolution in Mexico, which threatened to overturn the government, and which was led by Felix Diaz, a nephew of the former president, has suddenly collapsed. Diaz is a prisoner of war, and will probably be shot. There is another revolution in Yucatan.

The revolution in Nicaragua has been suppressed by the help of United States marines. That seems to mean, at least for the present, that the United States forces are in control of the country. Threatening revolutions in Honduras, Cuba and Santo Domingo have also ended in failure. In Ecuador, the insurgents have been more successful, having recently captured the city of Limonez.

Early in October, Montenegro declared war against Turkey and invaded the Turkish province of Albania. Two weeks later Turkey had commenced war against Servia and Bulgaria, and Greece had sent an army into Macedonia.

From Servia and Bulgaria, powerful armies at once entered Turkish territory, and swept southward so rapidly that the Turks could not withstand them; and now, at the end of another two weeks, it appears that the war must be near its end, with the Turkish armies completely vanquished, and Constantinople threatened by the victorious armies of the allies. Adrianople is invested or has fallen; Uskub, in Macedonia, has been taken by the Servians or Serbs; Scutari is invested by the Montenegrins, and the Greeks are moving on Saloniki. Later reports show that both Adrianople and Saloniki have been captured. This is the situation on the first day of the month; but events move so rapidly there that much more may have occurred before this page reaches the reader. Once more in the history of Europe it seems as if the Turkish Empire is at an end. It is believed that the great powers of Europe have already agreed upon a plan of intervention; which may include a joint occupation of Turkish territory, similar to the occupation of Crete.

When it was seen that the Balkan war was inevitable, Turkey made peace with Italy, leaving Italy in undisputed sovereignty over Tripoli, except in so far as the Mohammedan tribesmen are disposed to dispute that sovereignty. Certain rights are reserved to the Sultan. It remains to be seen how long there will be a Sultan to exercise them.

The great battle of the Thracian plains in which the Bulgarians drove the Turks back upon the defences of Constantinople, whatever its immediate results, must stand as one of the important events in the history of Europe. Two of the four divisions of the Turkish army were completely shattered. The Turkish regulars seem to have behaved nobly in defeat; but the irregulars are repeating the atrocious crimes that have always disgraced their armies, and thus surely hastening the time when the last Turk will be driven out of the country and it will again come under Christian rule. Greeks, Servians and Bulgarians, as they advance, are forming their own civil governments in the conquered country. The Turkish government, admitting defeat, has asked for the intervention of the powers, but the allies will not consent, expecting to be able to make their own terms after the fall of Constantinople.

The presidential election in the United States has resulted in the choice of the Democratic candidate, Governor Wilson, by a large majority.

Hon. James S. Sherman, Vice-President of the United States, died on the thirtieth of October. His death will make no difference in the political situation, though he was a candidate for re-election.

The public accounts of the Dominion, which have just been published, show a surplus of nearly thirty-eight million dollars.

There is a considerable industry every autumn along the shores of Rice Lake, bordering on Peterborough and North-umberland counties, Ontario, in the harvesting of black rice. The sole right to gather this product is vested in the Indian tribes of the district and the process is interesting. In gathering, a sheet is spread in the bottom of a canoe and while one man in the bow paddles, another in the stern, with the aid of two sticks, bends the rice over the side of the canoe and beats the grain out upon the sheet. When a load is thus gathered it is taken ashore and spread in the sun to dry. When sufficiently dry it undergoes a process of parching, being for this purpose placed in a large iron