

any one with an unpractised eye and ear is apt to confound them. The vesper sparrow is the only "grey-bird" we have which shows two white tail-feathers when he spreads his tail in flight. Having identified him in this way by sight, the children will soon learn to distinguish his song from that of the song-sparrow. Those with good musical powers will soon be able to imitate both. A bird with mostly red plumage, deepening to crimson on the head, about equal in size to the song-sparrow, but with longer wings and forked tail, will probably be heard singing a fine continued song from the top, or near the top, of a tree. He does not hop about the ground much, as the sparrows do, although he belongs to the same family, and his mate is a greyish bird. He is the crimson finch, often called the American linnet.

In passing a low meadow, a grey-bird, somewhat larger than the chipping sparrow, but less bulky than the song sparrow, will be heard singing on the fence, a short weak song — the weakest song of any of our sparrows, but not devoid of sweetness. When disturbed he will probably fly out into the meadow and light upon the ground, or else settle on a low bush, or upon a dried herb a foot or two high. Perched upon such a slender support he may be often heard singing. He will even sing upon a stone or some slight elevation of the ground. If a close view can be obtained, a yellowish line will be seen running just above his eye. He is the Savannah sparrow. He is strictly a meadow sparrow, and never frequents the woods.

Our commonest thrush, which we call the robin, will be seen along the open way. His near relative, the hermit thrush or swamp robin, a shy bird, with speckled breast and dusky upper parts, shading into rufous on the tail, may be found on the outskirts of the woods, but his clear ringing song he usually reserves to gladden the evening twilight. If the season be an early one, and the road pass through or by an interval, a bird, mostly black, but with some white on the wings and on the back towards the tail, and a buff spot back of the head, will be heard pouring forth an enthusiastic song from a shrub or tree. He is the bobolink. A little later in the season his mate may be seen creeping through the short grass of the interval while he flutters through the air, singing as he goes. *She* is a plain yellowish-brown bird.

The bobolink belongs to the blackbird family, of which two other members are quite common — the thrush blackbird, somewhat larger than the bobolink (the mates are lustrous black in spring), and the still larger crow blackbird, clothed in iridescent black.

On nearing the forest the party may have the pleasure of hearing the familiar song of the white-throated sparrow, commonly known as "Old Tom Peabody,"

from his note. It will be observed that he particularly insists on his surname, which he usually repeats three times in succession. On getting a good look at him, it will be found that he is another "grey-bird," but with a black crown striped with white and yellow.

In the woods many different birds may be heard and seen — bluejays with their harsh voices; woodpeckers creeping *up* the trees with their bodies braced up by the shafts of their tail-feathers; nut-hatches creeping *down* in diligent search for insects; and various species of warblers, often in brightly colored plumage, flitting from tree-top to tree-top.

But it is now time to turn attention from the feathered inhabitants of the forest to the trees themselves. The children will be able, on looking around, to divide all the trees in sight into two classes, those which have green leaves on them, and those which have none — the former evergreen, the latter deciduous. It will be an object of laudable ambition to obtain specimens, for transplanting and for illustration, of as many different species of each class as possible. The different kinds of evergreens will be readily distinguished by their foliage, but how may the naked deciduous trees, especially those closely related, be known apart? Examine the ground beneath them, and there will be found the withered forms of last year's leaves.

The large boys will select symmetrical young trees for transplanting, preferring those which grow in open spaces, as they will be less affected by transfer to the open school grounds than those which have been accustomed to grow under the shade of other trees. They will be instructed to cut as few roots as possible, and especially to preserve the delicate root-lets. While this work is proceeding, the girls and younger boys collect under each species, a pail or basket full of mould and withered leaves and fruit.

After working hard for an hour or more, the trees and vessels are carefully placed in a wagon which had followed the party. They return to the school-house making as good use of their opportunities of observation by the way as time will permit.

They find the school-room in possession of their mothers and older sisters, and their desks loaded with substantial articles of diet. After grace has been said by one of the trustees or their secretary, they partake of a hearty lunch.

The dishes are next cleared away, and in their stead are arranged small branches, leaves and fruit from the various species of trees brought from the woods. In front are placed small specimens with a vessel beside each containing some soil, mould, etc. gathered at the foot of a large tree of the same species. The children occupy the desks while the parents