

Department.

Birds in April.

A LESSON PLAN.  
 Interest the pupils in the return of the birds in spring. Show them to distinguish between the sparrow and the chipping sparrow.  
 Pictures of some of the birds that arrive in April—robin, bluebird, kingfisher, song sparrow, chipping sparrow.  
 1. Inquire if the pupils know any birds about now which were here all winter. Have them say what they know. Ask questions like "Why do birds go away in autumn and come back in the spring?" How does the sparrow differ from the chipping sparrow?  
 Pictures of the birds to the pupils. In a general way speak of the differences of these birds in color, size, and habits. Notice the song sparrow and the chipping sparrow. Notice the reddish-brown and the gray breast of the chipping sparrow? How does the song sparrow compare with the chipping sparrow? Where does the song sparrow usually live? The chipping sparrow? Discuss the song of the song sparrow. Try to imitate its song by three strong notes and then down the scale. Can the chipping sparrow sing? Does it make any difference to gardeners like to have a sparrow about their gardens? What does this bird get its food? What does the chipping sparrow eat? Discuss the habits of the two birds. Compare the song sparrow with the chipping sparrow as to size, color, and habits. Which is the better bird? Which is the prettier? Which of all the birds you know that come in early spring. Which usually come first? How could you know each? Do you like the song sparrow? The chipping sparrow? Where do they build their nests? What do they eat? Watch for the first appearance of each and observe their colors, and their songs. Try to distinguish between the two. Watch them obtaining their food. What do they find to eat? Keep a record of their return. Draw a picture of a chipping sparrow and try to color it by using crayons. Tell stories and relate experiences of the lives of the birds.  
 This lesson plan is from Nature's Diary by Dr. D. W. Hamilton.

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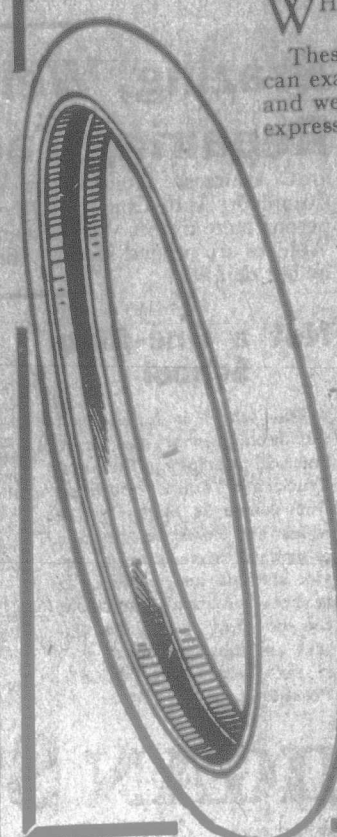
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