

T. But we have a number of native sparrows, have we not? Which is the most interesting of any of these you know? (A few hands up).

B. The white-throated sparrow, sometimes called the Peabody bird.

T. Why the Peabody bird?

B. They say its song is "O Tom Peabody, Peabody, Peabody."

Another B. Or, "All day whittling, whittling, whittling."

T. Cannot some of you sing the song, or whistle it? I will try to write it down in the Tonic Sol-fa. (Number of imitations).

T. Is this it?

| s : — : — | t : — : — | l : l : l | l : l : l : | l : l : l | .

B. Yes, but sometimes I think it is

| d : — : — | M : — : — | s : s : s | s : s : s | s : s : s |

And sometimes

| s : — : — | M : — : — | d : d : d | d : d : d | d : d : d | .

T. Very good. The sparrow has a good song—too good for a "Peabody," or "whittling," "whittling." Is not this the white throat's song?

| s : — : — | t : — : — | l : l : l | l : l : l : | l : l : l |

Oh my Canada, Canada, Canada.

T. I think I would know this sparrow now if I heard him sing; but how would I know him if he kept silent?

B. First he has a sparrow's bill and general appearance. Second, he has a white throat, black crown with a white stripe through the middle and over each eye. Spot over eye and edge of wing yellowish. Body chestnut-streaked above, ashy below whitening on throat.

T. Is he larger or smaller than the house sparrow?

B. Larger, about seven inches from tip of bill to end of tail, and the house sparrow is generally less than six inches in length.

T. Well, we have to-day learned something about two of our birds. Can we with profit spend time to find out anything more about them?

B. I think we can. If we should watch the house sparrow carefully we might find out whether he does more good or harm.

T. Very good. How would you expect he might be useful?

B. By eating small caterpillars, worms, maggots, and other insects.

T. Very well. I shall expect you to make observations on the house sparrow during this term which will enable us to decide whether we should side with those who think he should be exterminated without any pity as a nuisance, or those who think that he is more useful than harmful, and might therefore be tolerated.

Plant Study.

No. III. THE FLOWER AND FRUIT.

The fall is the season of fruits, and many of these may be made the subject of interesting lessons. No part of plant investigation will so abundantly reward the student of nature as a study of fruits. Nowhere is nature more lavish in her bounty—nowhere is more admirable contrivance displayed—than in the production of fruits and their contained seeds; and when we reflect that man and the whole animal world is dependent upon these for subsistence, is not a closer study of them one noble way to show our gratitude to the Creator for His ample gifts? Is it not a sin and a shame that people who live the year round among the bounties of nature are as a rule so indifferent to them, except to gratify material wants?

Definition: The fruit is the ripened ovary and its contents. The ovary is the part of the pistil whose walls are destined to enclose and preserve the seeds. The other parts of the pistil are the style and stigma. The pistil occupies the place of honor in the flower—in the centre, and borne, usually, on the receptacle. The flower is the fleeting part of the plant destined to produce the fruit. The beauty of flowers, their attractive colors, and the ingenious and odd forms of structure which many of them present are only lures for insects by whose help pollen is conveyed to the pistil and the ovules ripened into seeds. [Read Sir John Lubbock's "British Wild Flowers and their Relation to Insects," or Gray's "How Plants Behave," or "Outlines of Lessons in Botany," by Jane H. Newell, Publishers, Ginn & Co., Boston.]

The parts of the flower are simply altered leaves. This is readily seen in the parts of the calyx and corolla. A little observation will prove that the anther of the stamen and the ovary of the pistil are forms of leaf blade, closed for a certain purpose—in the former to protect and ripen the pollen, in the latter the seeds. The pods of the pea or bean are examples of simple pistils or carpels. In the pea pod the veining that belongs to leaves may be distinctly seen. The pod, when ripe, bursts open (dehiscence) by two lines or streams (sutures), the front (ventral) and the back (dorsal). The fruit of such simple pistils has always the seeds attached to the ventral or inner suture. The compound pistil, the fruit of which is called a capsule, is composed of two or more carpels, their edges joined together or simply meeting. If the edges meet only we have, usually, a capsule of one cell; if they are joined together to the centre of the pistil, the united edges forming partitions (dissepiments), the pistil or capsule is two or more celled. In compound ovaries the seeds are variously