

row plainly largely than the English Sparrow, with much *reddish brown or fox color* on the upper parts, particularly on the rump and tail, and with heavily streaked under parts, you have the Fox Sparrow. If the singer is a bird about the size of the English Sparrow, and with a wash of blood red it is the Purple Finch, sometimes called "Red Linnet."

After you have learned to know the Song Sparrow and his song you must watch carefully for another sparrow with which he is often confused. This is the Savanna Sparrow. He arrives about the middle of April, and his song is soon heard everywhere. He is smaller and grayer, that is, not as brown as the Song Sparrow, and his tail has a notch in the end, while the end of the Song Sparrow's tail is rounded. He nearly always sings from a low perch, a bush, fence, or stone, and the song does not compare with the Song Sparrow's, but is weaker and has a harsh weedy sound like the letter Z running through it. My own observations show the Savanna Sparrow to be even more common than the Song Sparrows. They remain to nest in the Maritime Provinces.

The smallest sparrow we have is the Chipping Sparrow. He is much smaller than the English Sparrow, and can be recognized by his size, his sharp metallic chipping note, much like the Junco's, his distinct reddish brown cap, and his plain gray unstreaked breast.

If you live in the country with woods near, you will surely know the song of the White-throated Sparrow. It is a very sweet whistle, clear as crystal, beginning with two or three distinct notes, followed by a group of three notes repeated several times. Some people say it sounds like "Old Tom Pea-bo-dy, Pea-bo-dy, Pea-bo-dy." That may help you to recognize it. The White-throated Sparrow is a shy bird, but if you can approach closely enough you will find a bird larger than the English Sparrow, with three distinct white lines passing back over the top of the head, narrow white bars across the wings, a plain gray breast, and a pure white throat.

Those of you who live near marshes, either salt or fresh, will sometimes hear in the marsh grass a single note which sounds like someone whispering "hush" without the "h-u." Many people have asked me what makes that sound. It is the song of the Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and no description is necessary, as its note is enough to identify it. If you can succeed in creeping very close to the songster, you will hear two or three sharp little "chips" before the "hush."

We have several other sparrows in the Maritime Provinces but the eight I have written you about are those you are most likely to hear. If you will learn to know them, you will have little difficulty in learning to recognize our other birds.

I would be glad to help you to know any of our birds better if you will let me know the description of any that puzzle you.

—E. C. Allen, Halifax, N. S.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS IN ENGLISH FOR GRADING EXAMINATIONS.

These questions are based on the Nova Scotia School Curriculum, and are designed to help the inexperienced teacher in her work of grading. They were prepared by an experienced teacher and approved by a District Inspector. The pass mark in English should not be lower than sixty in any grade. The questions for grade VIII. may be obtained from the Education Office, Halifax, on request.

Grade I.

(Five sentences each valued at 20).

All that could be reasonably expected from Grade I. in a written examination in English would be the writing from the teacher's dictation of simple sentences, showing a knowledge of the use of the period, the question mark, and the use of the capital for the first word in a sentence and for the pronoun I.

Sentences:

- (1) The cradle is on the tree top.
- (2) Do you see my kitty?
- (3) My dog and I can run.
- (4) Have you any candy?
- (5) The baby is playing with my doll.

Grade II.

(Eight sentences, each valued at 12.5).

Grade II. should show an additional knowledge of the use of capitals, and of the period in abbreviations. They should be able to write from dictation such sentences as:

- (1) Mary was at school on Monday.
- (2) June is the last month of school.
- (3) Little Jack is four years old.
- (4) I live in——.
- (5) Mr. —— is my father.
- (6) Mrs. —— is my mother.
- (7) Do you like to learn spellings?
- (8) Have you ever seen a lion?

Grade III.

(Five questions each valued at 20).

1. Write from dictation, being careful about capitals and punctuation marks:

- 1) Dr. Smith lives in Halifax, N. S.
- (2) We shouldn't do what is wrong.
- (3) The little boy's dog ran away.
- (4) Haven't you seen Mary's book?
- (5) Tom, Willie and Joe are playing ball.

2. Write a sentence (story) about each of the following: winter, snow, horse, ball, swing.

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