

interesting. Perhaps the most practical lesson would be teaching the different ways of sewing on lace.

It is earnestly requested that the teachers who have been following this course will make suggestions where it hasn't proven practical and where it may be improved upon, as this course is only submitted for their approval.

Bernice I. Mallory.

OUR COMMON SPARROWS.

To the Boys and Girls:

In the March "Review" we saw what important friends and helpers we have in the birds. This month I am going to tell you about one little group of birds called the Sparrows, and shall try to tell you enough about their markings and notes to help you to tell the different kinds of Sparrows apart.

No doubt you are all quite familiar with the little grey and brown Sparrows that we see so commonly in winter feeding about the streets, and in summer building their nests on sheltered projections about our houses, or public buildings. These are the English Sparrows, so called because they are not native to America, but were introduced here from England nearly seventy years ago. Probably no bird has had so many unpleasant things said about him as the English Sparrow, but I must say that he has some admirable qualities. He is a great fighter for what he considers his own right, and, true little Britisher that he is, has established his colonies not only over Europe, and Asia, but throughout North America, Australia, and New Zealand as well.

But I want you to use the English Sparrow to help you to know some of his Canadian relatives. Look carefully at the next English Sparrow you see, and notice his short, very stout but sharply pointed bill. This is a true character of the Sparrow Family. All our other small native birds have more slender bills. Notice also the colors, greys and browns of different shades, some black, and a little white. These are true sparrow colors, for all our sparrows have some or all of them, but differently arranged as we shall see. You will also find in a flock of English Sparrows that some of them are plain greys and browns, while some of them have bright chestnut brown back of the eye, the sides of the neck nearly white, and a large black patch on the throat. These distinctly marked individuals are the males, and are often thought by people who do not know, to be a different kind of bird from their more plainly marked mates. None of our common native sparrows have the two sexes so different in coloring. Notice, too, that the English Sparrow always hops, and never runs like the Robin, or walks like the Crow or Blackbird; and you have learned another sparrow trait. Finally get the size of this sparrow well fixed in your minds, so that we can use him as a standard for describing the size of other birds.

Now for our native sparrows. Among the first to arrive is the Song Sparrow. Everybody, whether knowing him by that name or not is familiar with the sweet song beginning, "Sweet, Sweet, Sweet," and running off into a medley of notes and thrills. While he has several varieties of song, this is one commonly heard, and everybody recognizes in it a sure sign of spring returned. Approach as closely as you can to one of these songsters, and you will find a bird about the length of the English Sparrow, but sligher, the upper parts streaked with grey, brown and black, and the under parts light grey streaked with dark brown. Notice particularly that the dark streaks form a little cluster at the centre of the breast, and that there is a dark streak running from the bill down each side of the throat. When flying from bush to bush the Song Sparrow has a peculiar habit of pumping his tail up and down, which gives him a bobbing, hesitating flight. Occasionally a Song Sparrow remains with us all winter. During the past winter one fed from a lump of suet which I had tied to a tree in my back yard, to help a Woodpecker through the days when the tree trunks were covered with frozen sleet. The Song Sparrows begin to arrive from the south from the twentieth to the twenty-fifth of March, and by the first of April are common.

Arriving about the same time, or slightly later, is the cheery little Junco; sometimes also called "Gray-bird." He is one of the easiest sparrows to identify; for the whole head, neck, and upper parts are solid, dark slaty-gray, and the under parts light gray, or nearly white. A distinct line right across the middle of the breast separates the light grey from the dark. The Junco is the only sparrow we have with a flesh-colored or nearly white bill, and, when flying, pure white feathers show in each side of the tail. So you can hardly miss knowing the Junco when you see him. Later in the season when the young Juncos are out of the nest, they will bother you, because they have dark bills and streaked bodies. But even in their case their white side tail feather will give them away. The Junco's common note when disturbed is a sharp chip which can be easily imitated by tapping two pebbles together. Both Song Sparrows and Juncos remain with us until late fall.

Now is the time to watch for Fox Sparrows. They arrive near the first of April, remain a few days, and move northward, where they nest. They again pass through the Maritime Provinces on their way south in the autumn. Birds that do not remain to nest with us but only visit us on their way north or south are called "migrants," or "transient visitants." If you hear a very rich warbling bird song this month it will be worth investigating, for it is likely to be the song of either the Fox Sparrow or the Purple Finch. If you find a spar-