

Eleventh in the Fuertes print series

[The original painting was published as the frontispiece of *Bird-Lore*, Volume XV, Number 5, September-October 1913. The accompanying text (page 304) is entitled Twenty-third Paper, and is reprinted here in its entirety.]

Notes on the Plumage of North American Sparrows

By FRANK M. CHAPMAN

HARRIS'S SPARROW

Harris's (presently **Harris'**) **Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia querula*, Figs. 1 and 2.)—The male and female of the species are alike in color, and adults in winter differ from adults in summer only in having the cheeks buff instead of gray, and the flanks and back somewhat browner.

The nestlings (known only from three specimens in the American Museum, taken by Seton and Preble on Artillery Lake, Mackenzie, August 7, 1907) closely resemble nestling Song Sparrows. At the postjuvenile molt the body feathers and wing-coverts are renewed, the tail and wing-quills being retained, and the first winter plumage is acquired by the first week in September. This, as Fuertes' drawing (Fig. 2) shows, differs from the adult winter dress mainly in having the throat largely white instead of black (some specimens show more or less black on the throat), the black being restricted to a broad necklace on the breast, and in having the black of the crown largely obscured by brownish or grayish edgings.

The spring (prenuptial) molt begins in March. It appears to be largely restricted to the head, neck, and anterior parts of the body, and to be of less extent in the adult than in the immature birds. After the breeding plumage is acquired there is but little change in the color of the bird's plumage.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*, [presently *Z. atricapilla*] Figs. 3 and 4). —In the female of this beautiful sparrow the golden-yellow crown-patch averages duller and its bordering black stripes are more narrow and less intense than in the male, but the difference between the two is so slight that the sexes cannot surely be distinguished in life by color alone.

The only nestling I have seen (taken in the Kenai Mts., Alaska, August 9, 1901) has nearly completed the postjuvenile molt, but enough of the juvenile plumage remains to show that the breast is streaked, while the upperparts resemble those of a Song Sparrow at the same age. The body plumage and wing-coverts are in full molt, and the wings and tail are probably all that is retained of the nestling plumage.

The first winter plumage (Fig. 4) differs from the breeding dress mainly in the color of the crown, the ashy hindhead being now the color of the back; the yellow patch is so obscure as to be at times barely evident, and the broad black borders are but faint lines. The back is like that of the adult, but the throat and breast are washed with brownish, and there are indistinct lines at the sides of the throat. Adults in winter more nearly resemble adults in summer, but have the markings of the crown duller. The spring (prenuptial) molt, which begins about April 1, appears to be restricted to the head, throat, and breast, which now acquire the colors of the breeding bird

