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Assumes New Post With NYC Brokers

Leroy S. Zider, Jr., 589 Oakland, has resigned as manager of the Detroit branch, Acacia Mutual Life, to become manager of the Estate Planning and Life department of Johnson and Higgins, insurance brokers of New York City.

A native of Brooklyn, N. Y., Zider entered the insurance field in 1930 as office boy for Charles Lanceour, vice president and superintendent of agencies for New York Life Insurance company. He became agent for the old Ives and Myrick, manager of the life department of Baldwin and Seeley and manager of the William M. Smith agency of Travelers.

Zider was vice president and then president of the Long Island branch, Life Underwriters association in 1948-49 and sponsored the LUTC pilot program on the Island, acting as chairman for two years.

Since 1951 he has been general manager for Acacia in Detroit.

NATURE NOW

Fond Memories Arise As A Sparrow Sings

By LYDA KING FREHSE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Everyone knows a sparrow. But too many of us think of him in terms of a sooty nondescript bird who, like the poor, we have always with us.

This is true of the common English sparrow but among his family which numbers some 62 species there are some aristocrats whose voices are above reproach.

Sparrows will never be remembered for their looks although some of them are pretty enough in their neat browns and greys. But it is with their voices that they make a bid for our favor.

Mrs. Frehse

It is well to know and remember any bird by its song for there are countless times when it can be heard but canhot be seen.

My earliest memories of bird song are linked to a meadow which encloses a place called "home."

BOBOLINKS and meadow larks are its summer voice but in early spring time it belongs to the joyous and bubbling trill of the song sparrow.

We heard him there in the low alders along the bank of the creek before the ice at its edge had melted. We heard him all through haying and harvest time, until we saw him at last, a small brown shape perched atop a dried out cup of Queen Anne's lace or swaying on some milkweed pod.

His song was so continuous in all weather, on all days, that it became an unconscious attribute of a season which began in February and did not end until the first snows of November.

WHILE THE song sparrow's singing is in no way remarkable, it yet includes in its repertoire at least six selections, all of them clear, sweet and entirely joyous. Sometimes he may even sing in his sleep, so say the bird-writers, who describe his final efforts as a "simple strain."

The song of the vesper sparrow recalls our first camping days in the Ozark hill country. Here by noonday the summer heat envelopes everything in a blanket that smothers. Even the birds are silent. But at 4 o'clock the cow bells begin to tinkle and the vesper sparrow sounds his two opening notes in a plaintive minor strain, and the teeming world comes alive again.

His territory there included a piece of plowed field and a meadow across from our cabin which stood level with the tree tops on the banks of Thickety creek.

I COULD HEAR him late every afternoon as he followed his first minor strain with a trill. Those were the days of my honeymoon and I was thumbing the bird books through for the first time. It was easy for me to remember the words of the author who wrote that the syllables of the vesper sparrow's song sound like "Sweet, sweet, I love you: you, you, you, you." And his was the last bird music we heard as the long bright hours ended.

The field sparrow has his best audience with those who hie themselves early to the spring woods as we did today, to walk there among last year's dead leaves.

The first blooms of hepatica, blood root and adder's tongue have already dropped their petals, but violets and wild phlox and trillium are at full tide.

The world of blue sky is not yet shut out by a canopy of leaves and we had not gone far until we were interrupted by a song which was borne gently on the spring wind.

IT CAME FROM the throat of a field sparrow perched on a low bush in the old pasture just beyond. It is sweet. It is tender. It is simply delivered on a single off repeated note in a rhythm that gains intensity and speed and then dies softly away. As one listens it evokes the memories of all life's springtimes.

But of all the sparrows it is the voice of the white-throat that is most poignant. Hereabouts he makes a migrating stop-over sometime between May 1 and 15, on his way to the more northern nesting grounds.

It is not spring in any year until we have heard his first call. We listen for it of an early morning when the first lilacs are opening. It is a varied song, so high that it cannot be imitated by a voice or a whistle, but so unerring in its rhythm and quality that once learned it cannot be forgotten.

IT WAS OUR alarm clock during an unforgetable vacation in the White Mountains and on the day we climbed Mt. Monadnock the voice of the white-throat was the last bird music we heard after we passed the tree-line on our way to the summit.

The dainty tree sparrow, the friendly chipping sparrow, the large fox sparrow and the handsome white-crowned sparrow; all these are at one time or another members of our bird community.

They all belong to the finch family which is the largest of all bird families and numbers more than 1,200 species.

But today a field sparrow sang, and the limpid notes were borne gently across the old pasture on the vagrant winds of May-time.

Entrance Exams Taken By Students

College entrance examinations were taken by members of Dorothy Allen's English classes recently.

The general composition test was taken by 97 juniors merely for experimental notes.

The students participating were asked to write about the problem "In a democratic society is there a conflict between participating in group activities and the development of individual values."

The test was administered in two hours, with the first 20 minutes spent reading the background materials. In the remaining time the students did three writing assignments. One was to write a rough outline of his essay in the 20 minutes; to state in a sentence or two the purpose of the essay, five minutes; and to write the essay, 75 minutes.

The essays will be judged impartially according to five qualities: mechanics, style, organization, reasoning and content.

To Study Request

A request from Frederic C. Pew, to be permitted to purchase fractional parts of lots 56, 57 and 58 of the "Adams Park" subdivision, has been referred to City Manager Donald C. Egbert and City Attorney Forbes S. Hascall for consideration.

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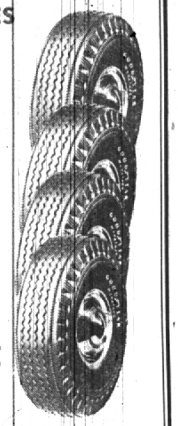

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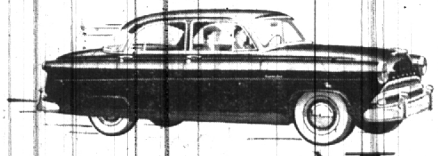

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