2. **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** *(Zonotrichia albicollis)*

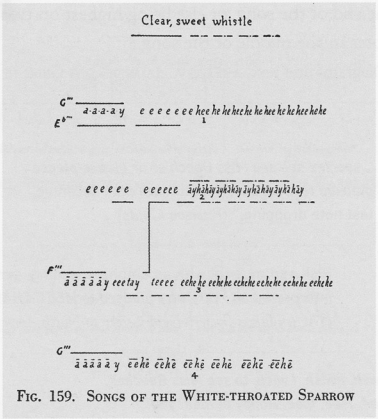

FIG. 159. SONGS OF THE WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

THE SONG, due to its long, sweet, clear introductory whistles and peculiar rhythmic ending, is one of the most noticeable of all bird songs. … The groups of notes at the end are sometimes run together in little wavery sounds.

The pitch is normally very perfect, being exactly major or minor thirds or fourths. In fall singing, however, the pitch of final notes often falls a quarter-tone at a time, as if the bird lacked energy to maintain the pitch.

(Diagrams and text, ARETAS A. SAUNDERS, *A Guide to Bird Songs*)

Song, several clear pensive whistles. (*Peterson Guide*)

Song is 2 long whistled notes followed by 3–4 higher, quavering notes, like phrase *"**Sweet sweet Canada Canada Canada**."* (*Stokes Field Guide*)

Song: a clear, whistled *"**Poor Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody**,"* or *"**Sweet Sweet Canada, Canada, Canada**."* The latter rendition is perhaps more appropriate, since most of these birds breed in Canada. (*The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds*)

The song of [this bird] is remarkable for its rhythm, and its pure, clear-whistled notes.

*"**Old Sam Pea-body, Pea-body, Pea-body**."*
*"**Sow wheat Pe-ver-ly, Pe-ver-ly, Pea-ver-ly**."*
*"**All day whit-tl-in', whit-tl-in', whit-tl-in**'"*
*"**Oh hear me Ther-esa, Ther-esa, Ther-esa**"*
*"**All day long fid-dle-in', fid-dle-in', fid-dle-in**'"*

Occasionally [the bird] attempts a high pitch which he is unable to sustain, and then we hear him drop down the scale by easy steps like a musical sigh:

*"**All day whit-tl-in', whit-tl-in', whit-tl-in**'"*

The tones of voice here express as much discouragement as the words which accompany them imply. There is a sort of *"**Heigh-ho, fiddle-de-de!**"* character to the music which makes one think the little bird looks upon life and its cares as a tough problem!

(SCHUYLER F. MATHEWS, *Field Book of Wild Birds and Their Music*)