

eventually passing an exam I had had before

before I finally got through, though, curiously enough, I was never made to repeat the course as some others were.

All the time we alternated between flying and ground school we were second class cadets, an insignia on our shirts indicating as much, but giving us only Wed. night off as an added privilege. As a matter of fact I was restricted so much during April and May, either because of plumbing blinder or now, I seldom got "ashore" even to Tadmorville, while the beaches might just as well have been in Bermuda. Still, life wasn't too bad much of the time. The only required exercise besides drill was calisthenics before breakfast, so there was plenty of time for walks in the woods. With the Spring migration <sup>on</sup>, more and more birds began to be seen, and even the local residents with their <sup>heard more and more often</sup> songs, were becoming more in evidence. I had

SECOND CLASS

CADETS

BIRD

MIGRATION

SPRING, 1942

NEW  
BIRDS

seen the pretty little yellow-throated warbler, more or less black and white other wise, shortly after our arrival from Atlanta, but didn't add any more new birds within the limits of the station until late April\* when a chuck-will widow was first heard. It sounded much like a whip-poor-will with a new song. Eventually, I encountered one in daylight, and, like a small, spoutlike hawk, it glided out of the tree it had been resting in and disappeared. Ground doves "appeared" the next day, though they had <sup>probably</sup> ~~undoubtedly~~ been in the vicinity right along. Daintier, like most other members of their family, they seemed like miniature and special short-tailed editions of our much more widespread mourning doves. The next arrival, one that really had spent the winter further south, very likely with the big goat suckers in Cuba, was our most gorgeously, or at any rate most gaudily, decorated small bird, the Painted bunting. It is (only the male is brightly colored) under part

are <sup>all</sup> scarlet, but his upper parts are in four different colors, the top and back of his head being violet blue, his upper back and most of his wings light green, his rump blood red and his tail brown. Surprisingly enough the total effect seems pleasingly harmonious. A pleasant little song and graceful habits are added attractions. Another pleasing, but very plain <sup>by color</sup> little songster <sup>prevalent</sup> in the pine woods sparrow, never positively identified until early May, when his song became one of the characteristic sounds of the woods.

There were, of course, many other birds seen inside the fence that were permanent, winter or summer residents or merely migrants. Florida chickadee\*, tufted titmouse, gray-headed nuthatch, Florida (Carolina) wren, quail, mockingbird, loghead shrike, red-headed and red-bellied woodpecker, black and turkey vultures and cardinal were the outstanding examples of resident species not represented as far north as

MORE  
BIRDS

\* SUBSPECIES OF CAROLINA CHICKADEE. ENGLISH NAME OF FORMER NO LONGER RECOGNIZED

of color and not previously mentioned. The pile crow seemed to be more too easy to distinguish from the ordinary crow, but the white-eyed Towhee\*, on the other hand, while only a subspecies, could at close range be easily separated from the more familiar red-eyed Towhee. Only less than the birds wintering further south did these permanent residents, along with some of the winter residents, become more and more conspicuous as Spring advanced.

The delightful, noisy but musical mockingbird was outstanding, being, in effect, the southern "robin" and appearing almost everywhere.

SUMMER  
RESIDENTS

There were few "typical" southern summer residents besides the chuck-will-widow and the war-pireil, but the all-red summer Tanager, the duller marked but musical orchard Oriole, the tiny blue-gray gnatcatcher (almost a miniature mockingbird in appearance), the <sup>chubbling</sup> white-eyed vireo and the yellow-billed cuckoo belonged in this category in that they don't winter in

\* THEN + APPARENTLY STILL CONSIDERED TO BE A SUB-SPECIES OF WHAT IS