

FEBRUARY FAUNA FACTS
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW
Zonotrichia albicollis



DID YOU KNOW?

- White-Throated Sparrows don't live in our area year round. The ones we see here at this time of year will head north to Canada or the most northeastern states, like Maine, to breed.
- Their pretty, whistled song sounds like *Old Sam Peabody Peabody Peabody Peabody* or *Oh Sweet Canada Canada Canada*.
- This bird is especially interesting because there are 2 different color forms or morphs: black and white stripes on the crown or black and tan stripes on the crown.
- There are males and females of both color morphs, but when they look for a mate, they usually choose a mate of the opposite color morph. So a tan morph male, for example, will pair off with a white morph female.
- The two color morphs behave differently. Tan morph males don't sing as much or start as many fights as the white morph males do!

Draw a mate for the White-Throated Sparrow! The bird in the photo at the top of the page is looking for a mate. Can you draw one? **Hint: the bird in the photo is a white morph, with black and white on its head. It will look for a mate with the opposite color morph (black and tan).**

