

Spring: Off 1923

April 20th - I climbed Dymockie High Point today. The country looked bare, but I liked the openness of it before the leaves come out. At the top of the ridge going up Carrigan Road I stood & looked down over West Barb Valley, and the two little white churches. The maples are in blossom & look pretty among bare trees. Pussywillows were blowing by the roadside, & on one small pussywillow tree I saw dozens of honeycreepers. The spicebush too, is in bloom, & I stopped along the way to nibble a bit. I found only a few sprays of trailing arbutus against the mountainside. Always I have wanted to climb High Point alone. I was not a bit afraid, and I enjoyed the solitude of it. The wind was strong on the mountain top so I climbed down a little way on the east side to a sheltered spot under scrub pines and there I ate my lunch. I didn't see a bird or a squirrel, and could hear no sound except the breeze in the trees. I loved being up on the mountain alone, but when I came down off the mountain and drank cold water

from the little woods by the roadside & listened to the Phoebe bird and the field sparrow I thought after all - the valleys are the best. Stopped in to see Aunt Frank & Uncle Lane on my way back, & visited my dear hill. Mr. & Mrs. Watson were there & I had a little visit with them, and got a good cold drink from the spring.

May 11th - Spent the day at Lakewood, very pleasant walking along the soft sandy path by the lake. Whole flocks of red-winged blackbirds near lake. Whole flocks of red-winged blackbirds near the upper end of lake and many catbirds. Some in the meadows the lakeside was alive with Redstarts. Late in the afternoon I saw a large flock of Goldfinches at Spring Lake. It was a beautiful sight & lovely to hear.

May 12th - Heard a Bob-White at Point Pleasant, & at Bay Head saw a Fish Hawk & dozens of barn swallows. The ocean was beautiful. I gathered shells along the beach.

May 14th - With Mary Holcomb at Bolton.
Climbed Sheep Hill - a very pretty spot, trees &
spring blossoms in all their glory, & lots and lots of
birds. We sat up high on the hill and listened
to them sing and ate our supper there.

May 15th - Home in Parisfay with Mary -
Got some more birds on our list.

May 18th - To Middlevale with Mother. We
cut across lot from the Station & climbed Carter's
Hill; then we followed Yafeni Trail over the
hill & along the river. Never saw a blue sky,
nor the woods more beautiful. Every crevice in
the rocks was full of mountain junks. Azaleas
and dogwood in bloom too, and the fields
blue with violet. Stopped on Council Rock to
watch the shadow of green trees reflected in the
water & looked across the river to the mountains beyond
as far a scene as one could ever wish to see.

Heard a Kingfisher down by the river. We found West
Bonds at its head & saw fisherman fishing there. Stopped
at Spunk Spring for a drink after we had had a
long rest on the old iron bridge. Packed all along the
way till we reached our old spring at noon. The
hole through I put in by the dam is all covered
over with green moss. We ate our lunch on Maria's hill
& then walked over our old hill to the pasture lot.
I don't think I'd like to live in town after a spot in
the country again. If I ever go back I want
a little cabin by a brook in a pasture lot,
or maybe a cabin in an old apple orchard.