

appear in the spring, and it is fitting that this, one of our most musical birds, should be so called. Its bright, canary-like lay is one of the most attractive voices of the spring, and is familiar to many who do not know the identity of its author. In habit, it differs from the Chipping Sparrow,—it is not so often met with in the open country or in the garden, but is generally found inhabiting the borders of rivers, meadows, swamps, and other watery places. I have found it, however, in company with the English Sparrows hopping about the barnyard. It seeks its food on the ground, hopping along through grass and weeds in a peculiar, mouse-like manner.

It is a plump little bird, with dark-brown streaks over its head, and along its sides. The breast is light in colour, boldly streaked with dark-brown and with a conspicuous dark patch in the centre. The beak is stout and dark-coloured. The Song Sparrow resembles the Vesper Sparrow considerably; but is much darker and of a ruddier brown. Its tail is longer and lacks the two white feathers which are such a striking feature of the Vesper Sparrow.

The female generally builds her nest on the ground in a little elevated tuft of grass, or other vegetation. It is composed of fine, dry grass, and is lined with horse-hair and other material. It lays four to five eggs of a bluish-white colour, thickly covered with large reddish-brown spots.

ECONOMIC VALUE OF SPARROWS.

Some years ago in an effort to arrive at the true relation of these common birds to agriculture, I undertook a rather extensive investigation of the food consumed by the four above named sparrows during one summer. For this purpose of course it was necessary to kill a few specimens each week, throughout the summer, and a most careful examination was made of the stomach, the crop and the gullet of each. From this investigation the following conclusions were drawn regarding the economic importance of each species.

The English Sparrow is almost exclusively a grain and weed-seed eater. Nearly all the insects found in the stomachs of those examined were of a kind practically neutral in their effects on Agriculture.

Now, although it is true that they consume a considerable amount of weed-seeds, yet the fact that they limit their weed-seed eating largely to the barnyard and the immediate vicinity of buildings, lessens to a great degree the benefit which they would otherwise confer upon the farmer.