

Sparrow is seen to do in the streets of Montreal. While collecting insects at Ellis Bay Anticosti, two male Fox-coloured Sparrows were having a battle within a yard of where I stood, and they were so earnest in the affair that I caught them in my insect-net; they apparently had no fear of my presence. I gave the little pugilists their liberty, and in a few minutes afterward, both were singing as cheerfully as if nothing had happened.—C.

THE GOSHAWK.

(*Aster atricapillus*.)

A very fine adult female of this falcon was sent from Contrecoq to Montreal, early this month, (July). We do not frequently see it in summer. It is generally more abundant between the months of October and January.

THE ENGLISH HOUSE SPARROW.

Dr. Elliot Coues, an eminent American ornithologist says that no step now likely to be taken can end in the extermination of these birds; they have multiplied so rapidly since their introduction on this side of the Atlantic, that it is useless to try the experiment. Some time ago the Corporation of Montreal were anxious to have the sparrows destroyed, suggesting poison as a means to kill them. They could never succeed by this mode, as the birds are now extensively distributed over temperate America, therefore a continual supply would come from adjacent cities and towns, and it would take years to get rid of them. The English Sparrow is preyed upon, since his introduction here, by cats, hawks, owls and shrikes; he survives, enjoying the climate and our habitations, and not particular as to the kinds of food he eats.—C.

MONTREAL BRANCH, ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

The tenth annual meeting of this Society was held on the 8th May last, at the residence of H. H. Lyman, Esq., President. The

Annual Report showed that though the students of this branch of Natural History in Montreal are few in number, the interest of the meetings is well kept up. Six original papers were read during the year, and many observations on the insect life of Montreal stand on record in the minutes of the Society. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year: G. J. Bowles, President; W. Couper, Vice-President; F. B. Canfield, Secretary-Treasurer. Members of Council, H. H. Lyman, J. G. Jack, W. Shaw and H. Graves.

MR. WHITCHER ON FISH CULTURE IN CANADA.

We have before us, a long letter from Mr. W. F. Whitcher in "Forest and Stream," which is both astounding and instructive at this instant when fish-culturists from all parts of the world are assembled at the Fisheries Exhibition in London, England. Of course Mr. Whitcher substantiates the fact that eggs can be artificially fecundated; that their *ova* have been successfully transported from America to Europe, and are there being developed into living fish. But "what remains yet to be done is to convince the world that a proportion of such prolific hatchings and abundant distribution, commensurate to the prodigious numbers hatched and liberated alive, has reached maturity and reappeared in commercial and industrial channels as a commodity of trade and an article of supply to such an appreciable extent as the faithful are justified in expecting. The multiplication of the marketable food fishes, as evidenced by the actual catch, is what remains to be proved. There can, I presume, be no doubt, that the public tax-payer has a right to demand this proof; and Canada, Parliament and the press are already asking for it in somewhat impatient terms." It is not our wish to disparage Mr. Wilmot's enthusiastic efforts as a fish-breeder, but honestly speaking, Mr. Whitcher is correct in alluding to "prac-