

a sparrow's nest in this city, in the last week of February, three or four years ago, a half-fledged sparrow ; there were probably others in the nest. Notwithstanding the above, there are reasons, however, for believing that the breeding season does not fairly begin until the latter part of April or the beginning of May.

It may be owing to the fact that sparrows have been brought so much into contact with man that they have attained to such a high degree of intelligence. There is little doubt but that they exercise a greater degree of cunning, it may be called, in self-preservation and applying means to ends than do most of our native birds. A case illustrative of this fact I saw in one of the papers a short time ago. It is as follows : A gentleman in one of the neighboring States having been greatly pestered with sparrows undertook to destroy them. To do so he soaked wheat in a solution of arsenic and water for some time, and then had it thoroughly dried. This he scattered about in places convenient for the sparrows to get. In a yard close by he had a lot of chickens which he was in the habit of feeding with the same kind of grain, unpoisoned of course, and where the sparrows were in the habit of congregating and eating the wheat along with the chickens. At first the sparrows readily ate the poisoned grain, but, soon experiencing the disagreeable effects of eating grain otherwise than in the company of the chickens, refused to eat wheat at all, whether poisoned or not, unless the chickens would eat it also. They knew that it was safest to eat in good company, and acted accordingly. This may be a case of exaggeration and not quite in accordance with facts, but there are so many well authenticated accounts of their sagacity as to leave no room to doubt the statements made concerning their wonderful cunning.

Sparrows are largely used as food in Europe, as well as in this country ; even in this city I have been informed that many of them are shot with noiseless guns and used in this manner, and are said to be quite as good as rice-birds or snow-birds. It might have an appearance of cruelty to destroy the pugnacious and self-maintaining little scavenger. I confess I like to see the sparrows hopping about the streets in winter when all the other birds are gone ; but when it comes to be a choice between our native songsters and the foreigner my patriotism wells out in unmistakeable accents. Canada for Canadians, and if for love of our