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vegetable substance and insects in about equal proportion, and that the Sparrow, having attached itself to the haunts of man, usually obtains its vegetable food from the plants and seeds cultivated by men for their own use. I have read many reports of so-called observers, who have stated that the House Sparrow never eats insects of any kind, that it drives away our native birds, and that it is altogether an unmitigated nuisance. Sweeping assertions of this kind are only conclusive evidence that the so-called observer cannot observe. No one with ordinary perceptive faculties can walk through our public parks, or along one of our streets where there are trees and grass in the summer time, without seeing some Sparrows industriously hunting for insects with which to feed their young, and should anyone have a sparrow's nest under his verandah or about his house in such a position that some of the food brought by the parent birds to their young will fall where it can be seen, the proof that they do eat insects, and in large quantities too, will be very clear. The old birds also eat insects at this season, varying their diet with such undigested grain as they may find in horse droppings, and with bread crumbs and such like refuse from houses.

Sparrows, like the majority of birds, will not eat hairy caterpillars, but I have seen them eat the spiny larvæ of *Vanessa antiopa*, which is one of our shade tree pests that few birds will touch. Besides this I have seen them take moths of almost any kind, including the large *Cecropia* and *Luna* moths and the Tussock moth (both the winged male and the wingless female), beetles of many kinds, even such large species as the aquatic *Dytiscus*, which they find on the sidewalks beneath the electric lights to which the beetles are attracted at night, the green cabbage worm (the larvæ of the cabbage butterfly)—of these they eat great numbers. They also hunt about fences, and take the pupa of this same butterfly. The currant worms and the mature insects are also taken in large numbers, as are also grasshoppers, and both the black and green aphides that occur on apple trees and rose bushes are eaten greedily. On one occasion a flock of Sparrows completely cleaned off the green aphids from some rose bushes near my windows. It took them several days to finish their work, but they did it effectually in the end.

About harvest time the Sparrows show their grain-eaten proclivities. They then gather into large flocks, and, leaving the town where they were bred, visit the surrounding country and make serious raids upon the wheat and oats, and do more damage while the grain is standing by beating it out than by eating it. It is in early spring, however, that the worst trait in the sparrow's character becomes apparent. Vegetation awakens after the long winter's sleep: the trees put forth their buds, and seedlings break through the soil. The Sparrow, probably needing an alterative after the hard fare of the winter, attacks all these; nothing green comes amiss to him, and then the gardener, wrathful at the loss of prospective fruit, vegetables and flowers, forgets the good qualities the bird has, and would have the whole tribe exterminated. Whether or not he would be the gainer by this is somewhat difficult to decide. My own opinion at present is, that the number we now have do as much good as they do harm, but that they should not be allowed to increase to any great extent.

The Sparrow is also charged with driving away our native birds. This charge is well founded only in the case of such birds as were formerly in the habit of building in holes and crevices about our houses, such as the Swallows and the Wrens. In the case of the Wrens the difficulty can easily be got over by placing their nest boxes low down, say about eight feet from the ground; the Sparrows will not then occupy them. But the Swallow problem is not so easy to solve. The trouble arises from the fact that the Sparrows remain here all