

Besides the foregoing *direct* injuries chargeable to the sparrow, it *indirectly* causes considerable loss by driving away our native birds.

Before the advent of the sparrow the insect pests in the garden and orchard were fairly kept in check, being sought for as food by such birds as the robin, cat-bird, blue bird, song sparrow, house-wren, yellow bird, oriole, vireo, phæbe, purple martin and white-bellied swallow. All of these have now been either entirely driven away from their former haunts, or remain in greatly reduced numbers under perpetual annoyance. The sparrows have many bitter family quarrels among themselves, but should a bird of a different species appear upon the scene, it is astonishing to see how quickly they lay aside their own disputes and unite in driving off the stranger.

The robin, from its large size and courageous nature, holds his own against the sparrows, better perhaps than any of the other birds named, but even its eggs and young are sometimes attacked and destroyed by this merciless marauder.

The purple martin, with care still has a footing on the cornice beneath the projecting roofs of a few of our city buildings, but should a pair seek to make their home in a garden box, as formerly, they have a continual fight for the occupation, and have even been known to be overpowered by numbers and killed in defence of their home.

Our native birds being thus driven off, the insects are allowed to riot unchecked among the buds in the garden and orchard, and do far more injury now than they could have done while their numbers were reduced by the birds.

On the first appearance of the sparrow among us, it was treated with great kindness and consideration.

The city council of Hamilton, with characteristic benevolence, erected a commodious house for it in the centre of the city, and for a time it was fed daily. Now the feeling toward them has changed everywhere, and the most important consideration is, how to diminish their numbers, or if possible to get rid of them altogether. Dr. Fisher, of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, recommends poisoning in a variety of ways—by strychnine, arsenic, corrosive sublimate, nux vomica, etc. This plan has been tried at the experimental farm at Ottawa, but has not been quite successful, for the sparrows are cunning, observant birds, endowed with more wisdom than some bipeds of a higher class. Should one of their number be observed to stagger, or be otherwise affected by what they are eating, the feast is stopped at once and not again resumed. On this account, a slow poison is recommended which will not take effect till some time after the birds have left the feeding ground.

The sparrows have not yet appeared in Canada in such numbers as they have done farther south, but even here they are on the increase, and with the foregoing facts in view, it becomes a question whether this Association should not take some steps to abate the sparrow nuisance before it gets entirely beyond control.

The history of the sparrow has become so important from its unprecedented increase and spread over such a vast territory, together with the extent of its ravages wherever it has settled, that large sums of money have been expended in gaining information which enables us to speak of its habits with some degree of certainty. But when we turn to consider the economic relations of our old garden friends with whose appearance we are most familiar, we have to inquire into the nature of *their* food, and on this subject our knowledge is so far from complete that any conclusions arrived at must be considered as only approximate.

Much has been said of certain species, but we have not yet seen it cannot properly be considered is, or beneficial in of opinion in

Among the birds that feed freely on them they are next of the season, injury in a corner the bob-o-link is considered highly south, it annually planters, by the way will be seen here form anything to know enough good is in their power.

Among other things, joyful, joyous fellow morning, and That he is fond of the finest of the caterpillars, grasshoppers,

Dr. King prepared the robin's food is glutted with which few of the small quantities which it takes to prove of more use for larva beneath the turf which no other bird can do alone, its

Another fact is, that the bird, which, like the sparrow, is found in the heart of our suburban places its lithe and rich melodious notes those of the bird it also takes the liberty of showing so by all means in the garden, where