

have noticed them go along and pick out the wire-worms, etc., so that in this way we see that they must be the friend of the farmer, and whatever bird or animal is the friend of the farmer is also the friend of the horticulturist. It is a pity that we have no protection for these birds. A large number are shot by those who have nothing better to do, and some, as you know, in different parts of the world, have been hunted out and destroyed for the sake of their plumage. I am glad that London society has taken up again the matter of wearing so many plumes in the hat. I am sure that the ladies are too fond of flowers to any longer suffer the cruelty, that is involved in securing the plumage, to be practised.

There is a third class, the Graminivorous. These are not always the friend of the farmer. The blackbird will eat grain as well as insects. We can tell this class often by the shape of their beak. The sparrow is one that will not eat insects. I remember a gentleman who was well posted in these things saying "Do not let anyone ever persuade you that the sparrow feeds on insects. You can tell by its beak that it is intended to eat grain." I have watched a large number of sparrows and I never saw them eating anything but grain. They will bear being watched. If any of you farmers having come from England are inclined to let them alone, I advise you to let sentiment go at once. They are just the one bird that we ought not to protect here. It is not long, four years or so, since I saw the first sparrow in the city and now they are very numerous and are scattered nearly all over the Province and in the summer you will hear more of them. You ought not to protect the sparrow. They are very destructive of other birds. They have a cruel way of insisting that they have a right to whatever they can get. They even steal the nests of other birds and lift the young birds over the side of the nest and let them drop to the ground. Then Mr. and Mrs. Sparrow will set up housekeeping in the nest they have obtained in this way. I am afraid that take him all round he is a very bad character. When the sparrow gets possession of a town as he will do in time, he will drive every other bird away and not only so but he

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