

foot, with the pecan in the other, peck a hole in it, and where the meat cannot be pulled out, apparently suck it from the shell. This performance is often repeated until the bird secures a meal of these nut meats. We do not disturb them in this performance and apparently they frequent the premises for that purpose.—PETER A. BRANNON, *Montgomery, Ala.*

**The Starling again at Cumberland, Maryland.**—My friend and correspondent at Cumberland, Md., Mr. John A. Fulton, writes me that the Starlings again turned up in that city in February 28, 1921. They also followed the same tactics as last year, wheeling about the vine-covered Episcopal church, with the apparent intention of settling down in the vines, but the English Sparrows lodging there promptly went at them again and again, until the Starlings withdrew and settled down in some trees nearby. This was repeated for several days.—G. EFRIG, *Oak Park, Ill.*

**Evening Grosbeak Breeding in Michigan.**—For a number of years I have had a flock of Evening Grosbeaks (20 to 60) feeding at my house every winter. About the end of May the last one would disappear and none would be seen again until they reappeared the latter part of October to again spend the winter. Last spring Dr. Christofferson, my associate in bird work, and myself heard rumors that a number of Evening Grosbeaks had summered during 1920 near Munising Junction, some 115 miles west of the Soo, had been there all winter and were still there. The doctor visited the Junction June 1, 1921, and saw six of the Grosbeaks. The station agent stated the Grosbeaks had been around all the previous winter and summer. The doctor arranged with the agent to keep track of the birds this summer and again visited the Junction, September 4. He saw twenty, including a number of young birds and on September 9, eleven. The agent informed him he had kept track of the birds and they had been around all summer.

Early in July we had reports that Evening Grosbeaks were at Hulbert, some forty miles west of the Soo. July 17, 1921, the doctor and I visited that locality. We only had an hour between trains. We did not see any birds but were told by several people the Grosbeaks had been there that morning, were there almost daily and had been there all the previous winter.

August 24, while at breakfast a male Evening Grosbeak came in to one of my feeding boxes. The next day there were three males, two females, and one young in immature plumage and hardly able to fly. August 26 I saw two very young birds. There are ten or a dozen birds in the flock and they are still here September 10.—M. J. MAGEE, *Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.*

**Albinism in the Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Passerherbulus cauda-***

**cutus**).—A series of fifteen specimens of this species taken by me since 1900 and up to 1921 in the autumn and winter, and within 300 to 400 yards of my house, show albinism varying from one or more white feathers in the tail or wings to beautifully mottled birds with white prevailing on the head and back; very few white feathers, however, are present on the under parts and, in most cases, are absent.

All of these specimens, which are now in my collection, are spotted with blackish in the abdominal and ventral regions, the specimens showing the most white in the normal feathers have invariably the most black spots while in those that show only one or two white feathers in the tail or wings the spots of black are reduced to a minimum. Several specimens have the tail feathers and dorsal feathers greatly lengthened with an appendage-like feathering and which I have only found in this species.

An albinistic Seaside Sparrow (*Passerherbulus maritimus maritimus*) taken by me on November 11, 1915, and at the same locality, has the black spotting confined to the sides, only, the abdominal and ventral region being white and without any spotting as is invariably not the case of the Sharp-tailed Sparrows that show albinism.

This strain of albinism in the Sharp-tailed Sparrow has held uninterruptedly year after year on this little realm, which embraces only a few acres of high land, to which large numbers of birds such as the Sharp-tailed, Acadian, Nelson's, Seaside, and a few Macgillivray's Seaside Sparrow repair at high water or principally at the advent of spring tides, and where I have seen in a single season no less than three albinistic Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

Since 1900 I have taken about twenty-five Sharp-tailed Sparrows on this little piece of land, all of which showed albinism in a greater or lesser degree, and all taken exhibited the black spots on the abdomen. On February 12, 1918, I picked up a pure white mummified Sharp-tailed Sparrow on "Eagle Island," which is about two and a half miles from my house. This bird without doubt succumbed to the intensely cold weather that prevailed in January, and is the only perfect albino I have ever seen.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

**The English Sparrow and the Motor Vehicle.**—In 'The Auk' for April, Dr. W. H. Bergtold has recorded an interesting chapter in the history of the English Sparrow, which might forecast a much to be desired reduction in the ranks of that pest. From the observations I have recently made in eastern Oregon, I am not at all sure that there is any real reduction.

It is generally conceded that the empty grain cars have been the chief means of distributing this species, which has until late years confined its habitat to the cities or the more densely populated sections adjacent.

So closely did the species adhere to the lines of the railways that many of us began to think that farming sections, of the west at least, might be