

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

spared its visitation. If such was the condition a few years ago it surely is not true today, as a trip through the sage brush sections of eastern Oregon will prove.

Some ten years ago I noted an English Sparrow about ten miles south of Vale, Oregon. At the time this was so far from the usual range of the bird that I made note of the case. The species was very abundant in Vale, but none were seen even a mile from the streets. A year or two later they were to be found among the ranches, as far as Ironside, some fifty miles from Vale and half that distance from the railroads. Within two years they were abundant about every barn in the Ironside section, except where they were driven away by use of the shot gun.

In late May, of this year, I drove by auto from Vale to San Diego, via Burns, Oregon. Burns is some 100 from the nearest railroad and the ranches between are few and widely scattered. English Sparrows were seen by thousands in Burns, and to get there they must have passed over many miles of sage brush and barren hills, where no human habitation offered food or shelter. Without doubt the species is becoming rapidly a resident of the ranch lands of Eastern Oregon. It would be interesting to learn to what extent it is abandoning the city for country life, whether the reduction in its ranks in Denver is due to fewer birds or merely a moving to the rural sections. The reasons given by Dr. Bergtold, for the decrease in the numbers in Denver, are very logical and, I think may be duplicated in most of our cities. How about the adjacent farms?—A. W. ANTHONY, *Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.*

Goldfinches and Purple Finches Wintering at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec.—For the second time in the past eleven years Goldfinches (*Astragalinus tristis tristis*) have again spent the winter here (1920-21), and Purple Finches (*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*) have likewise done the same thing, this however being the first occasion of their doing so during the above period, the previous occasion of the Goldfinches being in 1915-16. It may not be generally known that the Purple Finch is much addicted to eating salt, which accounts for its almost constant appearance in my garden of late years, there being a small trough just outside the fence where my landlord keeps salt for his cattle. It had puzzled me for some time why the birds were so fond of this particular spot until I read in 'Bird-Lore,' Vol. XXII, 1920, p. 286, of House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) being addicted to this same habit, when the mystery was solved. It has also been recorded in the same magazine for March-April, 1921, pp. 90-91, how English Sparrows, Mourning Doves, Crows and some other common birds have been seen round a trough in a pasture apparently picking up grains of salt. Chickens are also said to eat it greedily.—H. MOUSLEY, *Hailey, Que.*

Nonpareil (*Passerina ciris*) in Pennsylvania.—On May 16, 1921,