

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,