

at North Eastham. Inasmuch as the only previous definite record for Massachusetts is a male shot by Gordon Plummer at Brookline, May 29, 1880 (Allen, J. A., Bull. Nut. Orn. Club. Vol. V, 1880, p. 184), I collected the bird, which proved to be an immature male. The specimen is now in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History.—O. L. AUSTIN, JR., *Orleans, Mass.*

A Deformed English Sparrow.—On August 9, 1928, a wounded freak immature English Sparrow (*Passer d. domesticus*) was found by a gardener in Hamtramck park. The bird must have been struck by something, for there was a wound at the base of the skull, on the right side, where a patch of feathers about a quarter of an inch in diameter was missing.

It was in good immature plumage, quite fat, and seemingly in good health, and appeared not to have been hampered much by its deformity which consisted of the major parts of two additional legs joined together.

This extra deformed leg, which was immobile, came out on the right side, and crossed the rear end of the body at about a sixty degree angle inclined upward, and to the left. The backbone and rear part of the body were bent to the left, due to the deformity, and therefore the under parts were not soiled by the excreta. The deformity was feathered about normally. The knee was exposed and quite blood-shot, and may have been injured by the bird falling on it when wounded.—W. BRYANT TYBRELL, *Cranbrook Museum, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.*

Decrease of English Sparrow.—The English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*), as indicated by the number captured, has rapidly decreased in Lakewood, Ohio, since 1925, 31 adults being trapped in 1929 as compared with 152 trapped in 1925, or a decrease of 80 per cent. The cause apparently has been the decrease in horse drawn vehicles and the consequent lack of horse droppings in the streets. Where all deliveries were formerly made with the horse there is at present one horse drawn vehicle only coming near my feeding station daily. The surviving Sparrows are obviously those capable of adapting themselves to new food habits, though observations indicate an infiltration in the fall of young birds of this species from farm districts where a larger proportion survive. In Lakewood the English Sparrow has ceased to be a factor in the decrease of our native birds. In fact the coincident increase of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows and other small birds in open spaces in Lakewood and Cleveland is quite noticeable. The writer recently has found several instances where enthusiastic amateurs, in an effort to protect our native birds, have innocently been mistaking female White-crowned Sparrows, particularly the immature birds, for the alien English Sparrow. It would seem that in localities where this species is reduced about ninety per cent, further reduction with incidental danger to the native species, is not advisable. Of 182 adult and immature English Sparrows banded in

1928, one bird only was recaptured in 1929. This very small percentage of recaptures would either indicate that the mortality is unusually large or that the bird is a wanderer. The last inference of course agrees with its known success in establishing itself in new localities. I have obtained similar results from banding Starlings which we know are moving rapidly west and southwest.

Any possible effect which the increase of the Starling may have on the numbers of the English Sparrow is made uncertain by the increased use of the automobile which deprives the English Sparrow of his favorite food of partially digested oats. However at this station when a flock of immature Starlings appears the immature English Sparrows are conspicuously absent. The structure of the bills of the two species would seem to indicate lack of competition as to food, that of the English Sparrow being adapted to seed eating while the bill of the Starling is adapted for obtaining insects.

But as the young of seed eating birds feed mostly on insects there is competition as to food among the immature birds. While the immature English Sparrows captured at this station decreased from 424 in 1927 to 97 in 1928, the immature Starlings captured increased from 3 in 1927 to 25 in 1928.

It would be of interest to observe the interaction of the two species in localities, if any, where the horse has not decreased in numbers.

The writer would be glad to obtain any information relative to the increase or decrease of the Starling or of the House Sparrow.—E. C. HOFFMAN, 1041 Forest Cliff Drive, Lakewood, Ohio.

Where do Cliff Swallows Place their Nests?—One of the writers of this note was reared in New York and observed birds principally in New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. The other was reared in Ohio and observed birds principally in Ohio, Illinois and Michigan before coming to North Carolina. One contends that Cliff Swallows place their nests against the building next to the rafters facing to the outside. The other contends that these birds place their nests at the end of the rafters in the angle made by the rafter and the face board at the end of the rafters. Such nests would face inward.

While there is no money at stake we would appreciate the decision of the observers of these birds in various parts of the country. Is there a local difference in this habit? Is it a geographical difference? Or what is it?

In connection with nesting Swallows some one made the observation several years ago that Swallows preferred unpainted to painted buildings. We do not believe that this is true. On a farm in Ohio thirty or forty years ago Cliff Swallows nested on both sides of practically every rafter of a barn sixty feet long. In many places there were two story nests. At that time the barn was kept well painted and English Sparrows were kept in control by destroying their nests. Beginning about twenty years ago little effort was made to keep the buildings painted and the control of