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C.H.]

Sparrow  
1886

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[DIVISION OF ORNITHOLOGY AND  
MAMMALOLOGY, CIRCULAR NO. 2.]

# U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy.

## CIRCULAR ON THE ENGLISH SPARROW.

(*Passer domesticus*.)

The Department of Agriculture desires facts, from personal observation, in answer to the following questions concerning the European House Sparrow, commonly called 'English Sparrow' in this country.

I. Is your locality city, suburb, or country?

II. Is the English Sparrow present in your vicinity? If not, what is the nearest point at which you know it to occur? If present, when did it first appear?

III. Is it abundant and on the increase?

IV. Is it protected by law?

V. Is it artificially housed and fed?

VI. How many broods and young does a single pair rear in a season?

VII. Do any of our non-predatory birds habitually resist encroachments of, or attempt to drive off the English Sparrow unless themselves first attacked, and with what success?

VIII. Which of our native birds attempt to reclaim former nesting sites when these are occupied by the Sparrows? State examples.

IX. Has the English Sparrow been observed to molest or drive off any of our native birds? If so, what species are so molested or expelled from their former haunts?

X. Does it injure shade, fruit, or ornamental trees or vines?

XI. Does it injure garden fruits and vegetables?

XII. Does it injure grain crops?

XIII. Has any case in which it has been of marked benefit to the farmer or horticulturist come under your notice? If so, in what way has the benefit been derived?

XIV. Under what circumstances does it feed upon insects? What kinds of injurious or beneficial insects or their larvæ does it destroy, and to what extent?

XV. What means if any have been taken to restrict the increase of the English Sparrow?

XVI. What is the prevailing public sentiment in respect to the bird?

Information is particularly desired concerning the presence of the English Sparrow in the Southern states and in the region West of the Mississippi.

DR. C. HART MERRIAM,

*Ornithologist.*

WASHINGTON, D. C. JULY 20, 1886.

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