

WILD BIRDS.

No. 810

1920.

C.S.

Mr. A. G. Bennett.

SUBJECT.

1920

22nd October

Reports existence of English Sparrow in the Falklands,
and draws attention to their becoming a danger to crops.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

H. E. (1)

Submitted.
for C. S.
23/10/20.

G. G. I.
W. W. I.
23/10/20

Subsequent Paper.

Stanley
22 Oct 1920.

Sir

I noted in the catalogue to be printed for the Museum (in the list of Birds known in the Falklands) that "it would be interesting to see if a number of the English House Sparrow. = *Passer domesticus*. that arrived here on board three whaling factories & one Cargo Boat in Nov-December 1919 from Monte Video survived." Since their arrival I have not seen them until now. A pair have now established themselves in a hole in the East end of my house between the roof & the match-lining.

This bird is probably the most destructive of all small birds that have been introduced into various places.

Almost the whole of America is over-run with them including Canada. Rio de Janeiro, Monte Video, Buenos Aires, also parts of the Cape & Australia. They are very destructive to gardens, & to native Finches,

In order to prevent a worse spreading I would suggest that all seen, should be shot on sight, a pair of them in the Museum would be sufficient to prove their arrival, to Science & would in my mind, be much more useful there, than alive.

To The Hon.
Colonial Secretary

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your obedient servant
Agt Bennett