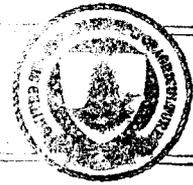


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ENGLISH SPARROWS CONTROLLED BY
TRAPPING, POISONING, SHOOTING
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Where English sparrows become too numerous in a locality it is often necessary to control them. Economical and effective methods of controlling these birds where they become overabundant are described in a leaflet, 61-L, "English Sparrow Control," just issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture

Recent studies of the food habits and economic status of the English sparrow under present -day conditions show that the adult birds are essentially vegetarian, says the Bureau of Biological Survey. More than 96 per cent of their food is mixed feed, various grains, weed seeds, and garden products. The nestlings subsist largely on insects, but the beneficial work the sparrows do in catching bugs lasts for only 10 or 12 days, after which the young become quite as vegetarian as the adults.

Methods of control outlined in the new leaflet include the following: Destroying nests and eggs; shooting; trapping, by means of nest-box or other types of traps described and illustrated; and poisoning with a strychnine-grain bait, directions for the preparation and distribution of which are given.

"Though poison," says the leaflet, "is an economical and effective weapon in controlling English sparrows, its use is fraught with certain dangers. For this reason sparrows should be poisoned only by persons fully aware of the danger to poultry, livestock, and other farm animals from the careless handling of poisoned baits. Poisoning English sparrows in sections abounding in native seed-eating birds should be avoided, since carelessly exposed poisoned baits might endanger beneficial birds, many of which are protected by State and some by Federal laws."

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Copies of the new leaflet, 61-L, may be obtained free on request to the/
U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.