

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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MUSEUM OF
VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Sept. 20, 1913

Mr. Chas. O'Neil,
Mayor,
San Diego, Calif.;

My dear Sir:

You may be interested to know that up until the present summer San Diego bears the distinction of being the only city in California free from that pest, the ubiquitous English Sparrow. Unless you have lived in a city, such as Berkeley or Oakland, which is infested with these vagrant interlopers, you cannot realize what it means to be free from them.

In the interests of the attractiveness of your city to visitors as well as to residents, you should take whatever steps are necessary to maintain the uniqueness of San Diego in this respect.

The well-posted ornithologist, Mr. Frank Stephens, of your city has recently reported to me that one or more pairs of English Sparrows have lately found their way (doubtless along the railroad) into San Diego -- probably from Los Angeles, where the species became established some years ago. Now it will take only a relatively small amount of energy on the part of someone who can tell native from this species, to get rid of those pioneers. Experience has shown over and over again that a very few of the birds will in a few years give rise to the hordes, which then drive out our native songsters and ultimately possess even the open country away from the city.

I suggest and urge that you present the matter to your city council and have them empower some one to shoot the few sparrows to be found in San Diego. We, here, have experimented with trapping, poisoning, and shooting, and the only completely efficient way is the latter.

I would suggest Mr. Laurence Huey, 32d and Clay St., of your city, as being a young man well versed in bird lore who might be entrusted with the commission. Please do not let this matter go by, as a little attention now may postpone the sparrow plague in your locality for some years. Continued vigilance might free you from the pest forever.

Very truly yours,

J. Grinnell

Director of the Museum.

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ALLEN H. WRIGHT

HUGH A. SANDERS *City Clerk*

By *Deputy*

COMMUNICATION

FROM

Joseph Grinnell

Re the English Sparrow

Act

file

*Presented to Common Council and
ordered Filed. SEP 24 1913*