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SPARROWS

THE THREAT: Sparrows are noisy, hardy, pugnacious birds which multiply rapidly. They are a nuisance over a quarter of the earth's surface, but have been kept out of W.A. Sparrows are a potential pest here because they

- *cause extensive damage to grain crops.
- *eat seedlings, buds and flowers in domestic gardens.
- *strip blossom off orchard trees.
- *eat fruit.
- *deface buildings.
- *displace native birds.
- *spread parasites of birds and animals.

Two species of sparrows are established in eastern Australia—the house sparrow and the tree sparrow. Their appearance and behaviour are quite similar.

Both sparrows are prohibited in Western Australia.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

Sparrows are about 12cm long. They hop along the ground while feeding and make a cheeping noise. They build nests of grass and straw in buildings, under eaves or in bushes, haystacks, etc. The male has a white bar on each wing and a black 'bib'. The female looks duller, with no black bib and a less conspicuous white bar.

SIGHTINGS OF SUSPECT BIRDS SHOULD BE REPORTED IMMEDIATELY.

Report sightings to the Agriculture Protection Board, telephone 367 0111 or to any country officer of the Agriculture Protection Board or Department of Agriculture.