

Both birds were evidently much heated and tired. The Vireo uttered a plaintive noise resembling that uttered when his nest is destroyed. I have no doubt that the Hummingbird could worst any bird that flies if he should wish to fight. He seems to have learned all there is to know about aerial locomotion, and his diminutive size enables him to dart about with incredible swiftness. He has no weapons of offense worth mentioning, it is true, but his whirring presence might become very annoying to another bird.—LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

DEATH TO THE SPARROWS.—Last evening (Aug. 3rd) a terrific hail and wind storm struck the city [St. Paul] about 12 o'clock, and this morning the streets around the city parks are covered with dead sparrows. In one residence lawn on Summit Avenue I counted over 600 dead sparrows, mostly young of the year.—WALTON I. MITCHEL, *St. Paul, Minn.*

ABOUT THE WORK.

In spite of the financial depression and the closeness of the times, the past year has not lacked its share of ornithological progress and enthusiasm. There is a growing interest throughout the country, especially in educational circles, for the study of the interesting science of Ornithology. The tendency is in the right direction, also, as it looks toward the economic value of birds and an appreciation of the ornithological science. Students of birds who are not bird and skin collectors masquerading as ornithologists are becoming numerous. The field glass is coming more and more to replace the gun. The disciples of Burroughs are multiplying. Books touching the popular scientific side of ornithology now have a wide circulation.

A very important move, and one that, it is to be hoped, will be generally successful, is the recent petition of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture to the schools of the country for the establishment of a "Bird Day" somewhat similar to Arbor Day. The proper and general observance of such a day ought to have considerable influence against wanton shooting of small birds and indiscriminate egg collecting by American small boys; and its educational value can hardly be over estimated. Members of the Wilson Chapter should urge upon the school authorities of the various towns in which they reside, the importance of observing "Bird Day."

Mr. Lynds Jones gives two courses in Ornithology, one elementary, and the other advanced, in Oberlin College. Both courses are offered