original historical research in the American field.” In 1849 Sparks succeeded Edward Evcrett as president of Harvard. He retired in 1853 on account of failing health, and devoted the rest of his life to his private studies. For several years he was a member of the Massachusetts board of education. He died on the 14th of March 1866, in Cambridge, Mass. His valuable collection of manuscripts and papers went to Harvard; and his private library and his maps were bought by Cornell University. He was a pioneer in collecting, on a large scale, documentary material on American history, and in this and in other ways rendered valuable services to historical scholarship in the United States.

Among Sparks’s publications not already mentioned, are *Memoirs of the Life and Travels of John Ledyard* (1828); *The Diplomatic Correspondence of the American Revolution* (12 vols., 1829-1830; redated 1854) ; *Life of Gouverneur Morris, with Selections from his Correspondence and Miscellaneous Papers* (3 vols., 1832) ; *A Collection of the Familiar Letters and Miscellaneous Papers of Benjamin Franklin* (1833); *The Works of Benjamin Franklin; with Notes and a Life of the Author* (10 vols., 1836-1840; redated 1850), a work second in scope and importance to his *Washington; Correspondence of the American Revolution; being Letters of Eminent Men to George Washington, from the Time of his taking Command of the Army to the End of his Presidency* (4 vols.,. 1853). He also edited the *Library of American Biography,* in two series (10 and 15 vols. respectively, 1834-1838, 1844-1847), to which he contributed the lives of Ethan Allen, Benedict Arnold, Marquette, La Salle, Count Pulaski, John Ribault, Charles Lee and John Ledyard, the last a reprint of his earlier work. In addition, he aided Henry D. Gilpin in preparing an edition of the *Papers of James Madison* (1840), and brought out an American edition of William Smyth’s *Lectures on Modern History* (2 vols., 1841), which did much to stimulate historical study in the United States.

See Herbert B. Adams, *The Life and Writings of Jared Sparks (2* vols., Boston, 1893) ; also Brantz Mayer, *Memoir of Jared Sparks* (1867), prepared for the Maryland Historical Society; and George E. Ellis, *Memoir of Jared Sparks* (1869), reprinted from the *Pro­ceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society* for May 1868.

(W. L. C.\*)

SPARROW (O. Eng. *spearwa;* Icel. *sporr,* O.H.G. *Sparo),* a word perhaps (like the equivalent Latin *passer)* originally meaning almost any small bird, but gradually restricted in signification, and nowadays in common English applied ’ to only four kinds, which are further differentiated as hedge- sparrow, house-sparrow, tree-sparrow and reed-sparrow—the last being a bunting *(q.v)—*though when used without a prefix the second of these is usually intended.

1. The hedge-sparrow, called “ dunnock ” in many parts of Britain, *Accentor modularis* of the sub-family Turdinae of the thrushes *(q.v.),* is the little brown-backed bird with an iron-grey head and neck that is to be seen in nearly every garden through- out the country, unobtrusively and yet tamely seeking its food, which consists almost wholly of insects, as it progresses over the ground in short jumps, each movement being accompanied by a slight jerk or shuffle of the wings. Though on the continent of Europe it regularly migrates, it is one of the few soft-billed birds that reside throughout the year with us, and is one of the earliest breeders—its well-known greenish-blue eggs, laid in a warmly built nest, being recognized by hundreds as among the surest signs of returning spring; but a second or even a third brood is produced later. The cock has a sweet but rather feeble song; and the species has long been accounted, though not with accuracy, to be the most common dupe of the cuckoo. Several other species are assigned to the genus *Accentor\*,* but all, except the Japanese *A. rubidus,* which is the counterpart of the British hedge-sparrow, inhabit more or less rocky situations, and one, *A. collaris,* or *alpinus,* is a denizen of the higher mountain­ranges of Europe, though it has several times strayed to England.

2. The house-sparrow, the *Fringilla domestica* of Linnaeus and *Passer domesticus* of modern authors, is far too well known to need any description of its appearance or habits, being found, whether in country or town, more attached to human dwellings than any other wild bird; nay, more than that, one may safely assert that it is not known to thrive anywhere far away from the habitations or works of men, extending its range in such countries as northern Scandinavia and many parts of the Russian Empire as new settlements are formed and land brought under cultivation. Thus questions arise as to whether it should not be considered a parasite throughout the greater portion of the area it now occupies, and as to what may have been its native country. Moreover, it has been introduced to several of the large towns of North America and to many of the British colonies, in nearly all of which, as had been foreseen by ornithologists, it has multiplied to excess and has become an intolerable nuisance, being unrestrained by the natural checks which partly restrict its increase in Europe and Asia. Whether indeed in the older seats of civilization the house-sparrow is not decidedly injurious to the agriculturist and horticulturist has long been a matter of discussion, and no definite result that a fair judge can accept has yet been reached. It is freely admitted that the damage done to growing crops is often enormous, but as yet the service frequently rendered by the destruction of insect-pests cannot be calculated. In the south of Europe the house-sparrow is in some measure replaced by two allied species, *P. hispaniolensis* and *P. italiae,* whose habits are essentially identical with its own; and it is doubtful whether the sparrow of India, *P. indicus,* is specifically distinct; but Africa has several members of the genus which are decidedly so.

3. The tree-sparrow, the *Fringilla montana* of Linnaeus and *Passer montanus* of modern writers—both sexes of which much resemble the male house-sparrow, but are easily distin- guishable by the reddish-brown crown, the black patch on the sides of the neck, and doubly-barred wings—is a much more local species, in England generally frequenting the rows of pollard- willows that line so many rivers and canals, in the holes of which it breeds; but in some Eastern countries, and especially in China, it frequents houses, even in towns, and so fills the place of the house-sparrow. Its geographical distribution is extensive and marked by some curious characters, among which may be mentioned that, being a great wanderer, it has effected settlements even in such remote islands as the Faeroes and some of the Outer Hebrides.

The genus *Passer* belongs to the Passerine family Fringillidae. The American birds called “ sparrows ” have little in common with the members of the genus *Passer,* and belong to the family Emberizidae, which is closely allied to the Fringillidae. (A. N.)

SPARTA (Gr. *∑πaρτη* or *ΑακcδaιμωV),* an ancient city in Greece, the capital of Laconia and the most powerful state of the Peloponnese. The city lay at the northern end of the central Laconian plain, on the right bank of the river Eurotas, a little south of the point where it is joined by its largest tributary, the Oenus (mod. Kelefína). The site is admirably fitted by nature to guard the only routes by which an army can penetrate Laconia from the land side, the Oenus and Eurotas valleys leading from Arcadia, its northern neighbour, and the Langáda Pass over Mt Taygetus connecting Laconia and Messenia. At the same time its distance from the sea—Sparta is 27 m. from its seaport, Gythium—made it invulnerable to a maritime attack.

I.—History

*Prehistoric Period.—*Tradition # relates that Sparta was founded by Lacedaemon, son of Zeus and Taygete, who called the city after the name of his wife, the daughter of Eurotas. But Amyclae and Thcrapne (Therapnae) seem to have been in early times of greater importance than Sparta, the former a Minyan foundation a few miles to the south of Sparta, the latter probably the Achaean capital of Laconia and the seat of Menelaus, Agamemnon’s younger brother. Eighty years after the Trojan War, according to the traditional chrono­logy, the Dorian migration took place. A band of Dorians *(q.υ.)* united with a body of Aetolians to cross the Corinthian Gulf and invade the Peloponnese from the north- west. The Aetolians settled in Elis, the Dorians pushed up to the headwaters of the Alpheus, where they divided into two forces, one of which under Cresphontes invaded and later subdued Messcnia, while the other, led by Aristodemus or, according to another version, by his twin sons Eurysthenes and Procles, made its way down the Eurotas valley and gained Sparta, which became the Dorian capital