

**GREENFINCH** (*Chloris chloris*)

I have seen a flock of about 12 at Ball Bay in November. There are usually a few feeding at the cemetery.

**GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis carduelis*)

In August 1967 I saw two in New Cascade Road and also two towards Palm Glen. These sightings were about 1 mile apart.

**COMMON SPARROW** (*Passer domesticus*)

After the Starlings, Sparrows are the most numerous passerines.

**STARLING** (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

These are the most numerous introduced birds. They nest commonly in holes in the Norfolk Pines.

[It should be mentioned that the illustrations are all taken from the author's colour slides. Ed.]



## SHORT NOTE

### WELCOME SWALLOWS NESTING IN CHRISTCHURCH

On 1/2/67 Raymond Melhopt took me to see a Welcome Swallow (*H. neoxena*) nest containing three young, almost fledged. It was in a culvert under a roadway at Bromley. The adults were easily spotted as they continually flew in and out of the culvert. This, I believe, is the first report of Welcome Swallows nesting in the city area, although they were breeding at L. Ellesmere as long ago as 1961.

The nest was placed about fourteen feet from the entrance in the middle culvert of three which drain the Canal Reserve into the Heathcote-Avon estuary. The culvert, which is approximately in a N.W.-S.E. direction, is closed at the southern end by flood-gates. A depth of about nine inches of water is continually flowing through the culvert, while a heavy volume of traffic passes over it. The nest was five inches long, had a clearance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the roof and was 39 inches above the surface of the water. It was made of mud and dried grass and was lined with poultry feathers. The chicks were viewed daily from Feb. 1st-7th, when they would take to flight very quickly. By March they were often seen over the long stretches of water in the district but the nest was deserted.

— B. N. NORRIS