

84. Hold the House Sparrow

(For Maleea Acker)

A real civilization would invent messenger seagulls

Ramon Gomez de la Serna

& prefer the enormous face of the Snake King or the Northern Flicker at the birdfeeder, feted by House Finches but please no House Sparrows at this house. How would a real civilization deal with Starlings House Sparrows other invaders? Let natural selection unfurl under the feeder?

She wd find a box, a trap for House Sparrow. She, not squeamish having helped her own Pop gut fish on the dock, she wd take this box this trap, catch these critters unwanted smash ‘em between two blocks of firewood, a clean kill, a prairie re-born in her backyard, an immigrant neighbor incensed at how she’d refuse lawns, roundup and other addictions specific to bourgeois conformity and snuff the pint-sized invaders.

Without question the most deplorable event in the history of American ornithology was the introduction of the English Sparrow & she’d agree “winged rats” attack bluebirds, peck holes in their skulls. How such a gentle culture (HA!) release such demons? Drop ‘em in New Zealand, find ‘em in Hawaii. Put ‘em in a Northern Flicker lover’s backyard and find ‘em flattened ‘tween two pieces of firewood, liberated w/ great compassion.

Out the beak
of the House Sparrow no “philip.”

Barely a peep.

9:01A - 4.19.13

Quote: W.L. Dawson, *Birds of Ohio*, 1903