'His eye is on the sparrow'

It wasn't a sweet song. The bird sitting in the tree outside my door was shrieking. High shrill notes pierced the morning air. The summer sum was beginning to roast the day. Usually birds would be inspired to warble songs of thanksgiving. Not this strange sparrow.

Watching from my window, I noticed not only was the bird's song peculiar, his behavior was bizarre. The small, brown feathered body ran back and forth across the lowest tree limb, much like a sandipper.

Then I saw it. Lying on the grass, close to the tree trunk, was a bird. A tiny, dark sparrow.

row.

I waited, hoping to see it flutter in response to the noise above. No movement.

Cautiously, I opened the screen door. Perhaps the bird was injured. As I approached the mololless creature, the reason was obvious. Life had ended.

MY PRESENCE didn't intimidate the shrieking bird. More persistant, louder, it ran



Jocelyn 🏿 Krieger

from side to side above my head. Nothing would stop its frightened cry.

I lined a small shoe box with grass and leaves. Gently, I lifted my unfortunate feathered friend, placing the lifeless body inside the box.

Still the other hird screeched Still the other bird screeched.

Nearby was a garden bursting with purple
bachelor buttons, cotton-candy pink snapdragons, fluffy white petunias. Slicing deeply into
the earth, I set aside a portion of flowers. My
shoveling didn't disturb the seemingly hysteri-

cal bird in the tree.

Suddenly, a fluttering of wings flapped above my head. I jumped, startled. The disturbed sparrow continued its cry, landing on the bush beside me.

With slow movements, I lowered the box into the garden grave. Shovel by shovel, I replaced the loose earth. The sparrow watched.

NOW THE SHRIEK changed. A fast chirping mellowed into a song. Carefully, I patted
the soil around the flowers. Ruffled petunias
would serve as a fitting monument.
Quiet. The sparrow sitting in the bush became silent. I also remained motionless as the
brown bird paid its final tribute to its fallen
mate.
Seconds later, the sparrow surged into the
morning sky. Is it any wonder the Bible says,
"His eye is on the sparrow?"

Jocelyn Krieger is a Southfield resident, freelance writer, music teacher and ac-tress in broadcast commercials.

Housing shortage, price hikes ahead

The current deep recession in the house buying market could lead to an acute housing shortage and sharp secalation of prices when the state of the economy improves, according to the Western Wayne Oakland County Board of Realtors (WWOCBR).

"The present pace of home building has declined to a nanual level of about one million units which, considering loss of older housing, means only a few hundred thousand units will be added to our housing stock," said John J. Halser, board president.
"With the growth of population and changing life styles, we need some two

million new units a year to meet the need created by new household formations. Obviously, we are going to fall far short in meeting this need this year at will have to start playing catchustry.

If general economic conditions improve as expected later this year and mortgage interest rates continue to decline, the pent-up housing demand will make itself felt in a hurry, Halser said.

"THIS WILL translate into strong competition for both new and existing homes on the market and prices, which have remained relatively stable in re-

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cent months, will climb," he added.

"While we hope the pace of price increases can be slowed from that experienced from 1977 through 1979, we know they must continue to be substantial."

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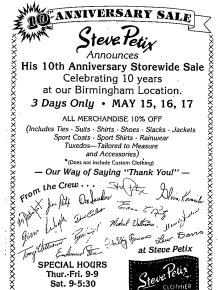
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