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COVER PICTURE

House sparrows perched in a tree in South Perth are the subject of this month’s cover picture.

The birds are stuffed specimens, realistically posed by photographer Ken Locke to show what these unwanted immigrants look like at large.

Nine sparrows were shot at Fremantle earlier this year and it is believed that there are now no survivors from this latest outbreak.

House sparrows can do severe damage to cereal crops, gardens and orchards and are a pest around buildings.

The House and Tree sparrows are described in detail in an article on page 357.