

News and comment

Domino sparrow's final resting place

Readers who were outraged at the summary execution of a House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* which flew into a Dutch TV studio and threatened to topple millions of dominoes lined up for a world record 'topple' (*Brit. Birds* 99: 51) may be interested to learn that the bird will be immortalised at the Rotterdam Natural History Museum. The museum's curator of birds, Kees Moeliker, lobbied the Counsel for the Prosecution in The Hague to transfer the dead sparrow to his museum.

The unfortunate bird had been seized by the authorities after it was shot in November and – pending an investigation into the killing of a protected species – was kept in a ministerial freezer. After the exterminator was sentenced to a €200 fine, the bird was handed over to the museum in December. The bird, a first-year female, was mounted on top of a box of dominoes and bears catalogue number NMR 9989-00002269. Starting on 14th November 2006, exactly one year after the fatal shot, the 'Domino Sparrow' will be shown to the public as the centrepiece of a major exhibition about *Passer domesticus* in the Rotterdam Natural History Museum (www.nmr.nl).

exh

Over
Intern
train
bird a
the in
Mesop
by the
traini
ity, be
Jordan
new N
one s
surve
Altho
forme
durin
regim
Iraq a
for th
bird p
global
as thre
floodi
gram
optim

Du
the Ira
the m
mood
Marsh
tured
BirdLi
Galler
north
22nd
all are
furthe
Steve
(2006