

Hampshire School Nature Watch

House Sparrow Survey 2010

Biology, behaviour and amazing facts!



Biology and behaviour

- House Sparrows have always been very common in Britain. They are found in lots of different places like gardens, parks, farmland, schools - even in the middle of towns and cities! Recently though, scientists have noticed there are not as many sparrows around as there were in the past. This is why we are doing a survey, to help find out what is happening.
- House Sparrows may be disappearing because of changes in how we live. Modern houses are not always built with eaves under their roofs, which is where sparrows often make their nests. This is why they are called *House Sparrows*.
- Another reason why sparrows are disappearing is because of changes in farming. Farmers can now harvest their crops so that less grain is left on the ground for birds like sparrows to eat. Less food means fewer sparrows.
- A pair of sparrows will try to use the same place to make their nest every year.
- Adult House Sparrows have strong beaks because they mostly eat seeds and grain. They look for food in bushes, trees and fields or use bird feeders.
- Young sparrows need lots of insects in their diet. These are easier for them to eat and provide protein to help them grow.
- Sparrows like to nest in groups, sometimes in large numbers. This helps protect them against predators. They also learn from each other where to find the best sources of food.



Amazing facts!

- After the chicken, the House Sparrow is found in more countries than any other bird.
- The oldest House Sparrow was recorded as nearly 16 years old.
- A hundred years ago, people in Britain would often eat sparrow pie!