

Other Activities

- A. Persuade Mum and dad to put a bird feeder with perches, in your garden. Try feeding different foods like sunflower hearts, sunflower seed, peanuts, fat balls etc. Now watch the feeders and work out which food they prefer.
- B. With the permission of parents and under supervision, walk round the gardens where you live and see if you can find a hedge that the House Sparrows use a lot. They are very chirpy in their special hedges and often sit around singing together. You can't miss them! Find out more about this hedge? What time of day do they use it? How many Sparrows use this hedge? What type of tree/shrub is this hedge made from? When do they like to sing in their sparrow choirs? Ask your friends to do this and compare your findings.
- C. House Sparrows love to bath in water baths but they also **dust bathe**. Find out more about why birds use dust baths?
- D. There are three types of Sparrows found in British isles, House Sparrow, Tree Sparrow and Hedge Sparrow (Dunnock). Find out how you can tell them apart? Which one is called a sparrow but isn't?



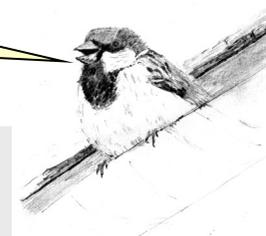
House, Hedge and Tree Sparrow, which is which? Label them.



What have these young House Sparrows been feasting on?



HELP!!!



WINTER PROJECT 1
Help the House Sparrow

Part A - FINDING OUT

This Unit on the **House Sparrow** can be started now but some aspects of the I-SPY style **WILDWATCH** work will be difficult to complete until the spring. Use books and the internet to help you. If you can put all your work together in some sort of simple presentation/file then we would love to see it. There will be certificates involved and maybe prizes.

- A. **FINDING OUT** - research, internet, books and observations
- B. **TAKING ACTION**—Building and making stuff
- C. **WILDWATCH Sparrow**—point scoring, I-Spy like village check sheet and project recording
- D. **All about the House Sparrow**. Hopefully this answers to all the previous questions can be found on this sheet somewhere — don't cheat!

WARNING

Note: If you involve children (and we hope you do) in our Practical Projects then obviously supervision while using tools and the provision of support throughout is essential.

The FIND OUT section for children?

Circle your answer and use the boxes below each question to write down anything else that you found out.

1. How many years does a House Sparrow live for? **2/4** **5/8**
years

2. Can you tell the difference between a male and a female House Sparrow? **Y** **N**

3. House Sparrows only eat seeds? **Y** **N**

4. You can only see a House Sparrow in Great Britain? **Y** **N**

5. A House Sparrow pairs for life? **Y** **N**

6. House Sparrows only nest in Houses? **Y** **N**

7. The House Sparrow is on the RED LIST. What does this mean?

8. What Colour are House Sparrow Eggs

Use this space for notes/drawings or you might be able to print out some photographs to help show what you have found out.

Ideas! Photo or drawing showing Male and Female House Sparrow, House Sparrow eggs, details for a nest box, a map of the world showing where sparrows live

RESEARCH Section for Adults

Just jot down the results of your research in suitable notebook.

1. Why do House Sparrows often use white feathers to line their nests?
2. Is there anywhere in the UK where you might not find a House Sparrow?
3. What has happened to the House Sparrow population since the 1970s and have the trends been the same for city and rural areas?
4. Do we know why the House Sparrow population has changed so much?
5. Does a House Sparrow nest in the same nest site each year?
6. Cleaning out nest boxes in the winter is usually a good thing because it removes parasites. This may not be a good thing to do with a House Sparrow nest box. Why? (2 reasons)
7. The oldest recorded UK House Sparrow was how old?
8. Find out more about breeding. How many clutches? How many eggs in a clutch?
9. Male birds can form more than one partnership in the breeding season. This is very unusual with the House Sparrow why?
10. Dig deep on this one!! Can you find some very unusual Sparrow Nesting site reports?