

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Order: Passeriformes

Family: Passeridae

Genus: *Passer*

Species: *domesticus*



STATUS

Resident/ Common

MORPHOLOGY

- Size: Well known. Smaller than the Bulbul. (6").
- Field Characters: Female earthy-brown streaked with black and rufous above, whitish below. An unfailing commensal of Man.

DISTRIBUTION

- Throughout the Indian Empire excepting Andaman, Nicobars and extreme South Tenasserim.
- Ordinarily up to about 7,000 feet in the Himalayas.
- Divided into several races over Europe, Asia and Africa.
- We are concerned with two, viz. : the Indian race *indicus*, and the larger Kashmir and N.W. Frontier race *parkini* (*bactrianus*).

HABITS

- The House-Sparrow is a confirmed hanger-on of Man in hills and plains alike, whether in bustling, noisy city or outlying forest village.
- When fresh areas are colonized, the Sparrow is amongst the foremost to profit, and quick to adapt itself to the new surroundings.
- In spite of this, however, it's complete absence in certain apparently suitable localities—as for example in the Travancore hills- seems curious and inexplicable.
- In winter, House-Sparrows collect in flocks—often of considerable size— to feed in the neighborhood of cultivation.
- At this season, too, large numbers roost together in favorite trees or hedges, and indulge in a great deal of noise and bickering before settling down for the night

NESTING

- Practically throughout the year. Several broods are raised in quick succession.
- The nest is a collection of straw and rubbish placed in a hole in wall or ceiling, niche, gargoyle, inverted lamp shade, and in every conceivable situation within or on the outside of a tenanted building.
- Rarely, in some small bushy tree or creeper, The eggs—three to five— are whitish or pale greenish-white, marked with various shades of brown.
- Both sexes build and tend the young, but the female alone incubates. The incubation period is 14 days