



House Sparrow

Sparrows are the most widely distributed wild bird in the world! However, populations have declined by 68% overall, and as much as 90% in some areas. The sparrow has a red UK conservation status.

Common name: house sparrow

Scientific name: *Passer domesticus*

Size: 14-18 cm (5.5-7.1 inches) long

Diet: seeds of grain and weeds, insects

Nest & eggs: they often nest in the eaves of houses.

Five-six eggs, twice per year

Song: short and frequent chirping

Where: most places across the world

Habitat: urban or near to humans



Chaffinch

In the UK chaffinches were often kept as pets but this was outlawed by the Wild Birds Protection Acts of 1880 -1896.

Common name: common chaffinch

Scientific name: *Fringilla coelebs*

Size: 14.5 cm (5.7 inches) long

Diet: seeds and other plants, caterpillars

Nest & eggs: nests are built by the female, often in the fork of a tree. Four-five eggs, between late April and mid-June.

Song: about 10 notes dropping down to the finish

Where: Europe, Siberia, North Africa, New Zealand

Habitat: woodland



Robin

When wild boar were to be found everywhere, robins would rely on them to dig up the hard, frozen ground in winter to uncover worms. Now Robins often sit next to a gardener for the same reason! Robins are strongly associated with Christmas.

Common name: robin or robin redbreast

Scientific name: *Erithacus rubecula*

Size: 12.5-14.0 cm (4.9-5.5 inches) long

Diet: worms and other insects

Nest & eggs: will nest anywhere that offers shelter.

Five-six eggs, two-three times per year

Song: warbling, flute-like, whistling

Where: across Europe, east to Siberia and south to North Africa

Habitat: gardens and parks



Blue Tit

Bluetits are acrobats! When they are looking for food, they will hang upside down and hold on to even the smallest branch.

Common name: Eurasian blue tit

Scientific name: *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Size: 12 cm (4.7 inches) long

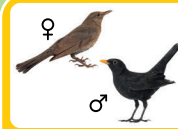
Diet: insects and spiders

Nest & eggs: nest in a hole in a tree or wall or in a nesting box. Seven-eight eggs, laid in April or May.

Song: tsee-tsee-tsee-chu-chu-chu or sispi-si-hi hi hi hi

Where: across Europe

Habitat: deciduous woodland, gardens and parks



Blackbird

In medieval times they used to place live birds under a pie crust just before serving! We are sure you know the nursery rhyme:
Sing a song of sixpence,
A pocket full of rye,
Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie!
When the pie was opened the birds began to sing,
Oh, wasn't that a dainty dish to set before the king?

Common name: common blackbird

Scientific name: *Turdus merula*

Size: 23.5-29 cm (9.3-11.4 inches) long

Diet: insects, worms and berries. Feeds mainly on the ground, running and hopping.

Nest & eggs: a cup-shaped nest, held together with mud. Three to five eggs.

Song: rich, melodious song

Where: Europe, North Africa, South Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Habitat: woods and gardens



Starling

Starlings come together into large groups – in some cases up to 1.5 million birds. They fly together in an aerial display known as a murmuration. This flight formation can expand and contract to form ever-changing shapes, that look almost like an animation! Starlings are noisy and gregarious birds.

Common name: common starling

Scientific name: *Sturnus vulgaris*

Size: 19-23 cm (7.5-9.1 inches) long

Diet: insects, seeds and fruit.

Nest & eggs: an untidy nest in a natural or artificial hole. Four or five eggs, once or twice per year.

Song: known to mimic sounds like a car alarm and include in their own song

Where: Europe, Eurasia, North Africa, Canada, USA, South America Australia and New Zealand.

Habitat: prefer urban or suburban areas



Red Kite

The red kite is a bird of prey. The population was reduced to a small number of pairs in many territories, but their reintroduction has been a rewilding success story.

Common name: red kite

Scientific name: *Milvus milvus*

Size: 60-70 cm (24-28 inches) long

Diet: small mammals and carrion

Nest & eggs: in a fork of a large hardwood tree. One to three eggs

Song: thin and piping

Where: Europe, Eurasia, North Africa

Habitat: broadleaf woodlands, valleys and wetland edges



Collared Dove

Have you seen a mark where a bird has flown into your window? That is probably a collared dove, as their dusty feathers leave a detailed imprint. Young birds can travel up to 600km away from where they were born, usually in a northwest direction.

Common name: Eurasian collared dove

Scientific name: *Streptopelia decaocto*

Size: 32 cm (13 inches) long

Diet: mainly grain but also seeds and insects

Nest & eggs: stick nests close to human habitation. Two eggs, three to four times per year

Song: coo-COO-coo, repeated

Where: Europe, Asia, Japan, North America, the Caribbean

Habitat: prefer urban or suburban areas

Birds