

# House sparrow

**As our climate changes, gardens are becoming even more vital to wildlife and people. They can provide shade, absorb carbon, soak up flood water and help to cool buildings. A well managed network of gardens stretching across the Sussex would also help wildlife to move more freely and adapt to climate change enabling us to create a living landscape**

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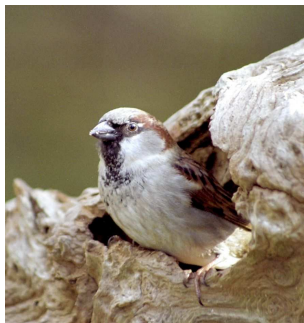


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## Nest-site necessities

House sparrows tend to live in communities, in and around people. Most nests are in buildings or in creepers attached to them. Other favoured nesting sites include street lamps, which have built-in central heating.



House sparrow / Alan Price, Gatehouse

## Building materials

The birds may bring in large quantities of straw or dry grass in to the nest cavity. If it is small, then a warm lining of feathers may be all that is needed.

## Chick care



They need insects to start with, but by the end of the first week, up to half the diet may be seeds and grains.

Young house sparrow / Alan Price, Gatehouse

### Special dietary requirements

Sparrows take a wide variety of grain and seeds, as well as bread and other scraps. They may learn to take hanging food but are basically ground-feeders.



House sparrow / Darin Smith

### Night shelter

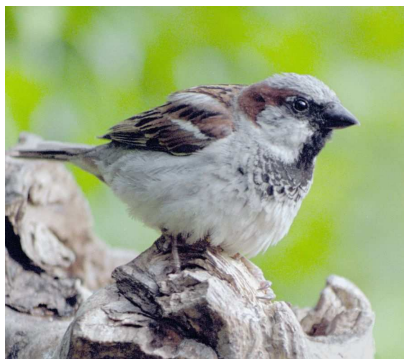
While the female is brooding, the female roosts in the nest, otherwise the birds spend the night in noisy communal roosts – often in Ivy, evergreen creepers or other dense cover.

### The ideal territory

Not too tidy and with a nearby farm, back-garden chickens or a generously provisioned bird table. A local roosting site is a plus, and there need to be lots of good nest sites.

### When it's all happening

Mostly breeds May to August, but can nest earlier if food supplies are abundant.



House sparrow / Alan Price, Gatehouse

**Breeding Starts:** May

**Number of Clutches:** 3

**Number of Eggs:** 3-5

**Incubation Days:** 11-14

**Fledge Days:** 11-16

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