



Because it is so common, the House Sparrow is perhaps the very first bird you learned to know and name. People also call it the English Sparrow. As it happens, this bird is neither English nor is it a Sparrow. It and several very handsome relatives belong to the family of Weaver Finches. These live all over the Old World. House Sparrows were brought here from Europe in 1850. They found few enemies and spread rapidly.

This bird nests in trees, in buildings under eaves, and in bird boxes. Its nest is made of string, paper, twigs, straw, hair. The four to seven eggs are whitish, speckled with brown. A female raises several broods a year.

In spring and summer House Sparrows live in pairs. In the fall they come together and feed and roost in large flocks. They eat insects, mostly beetles and grasshoppers, in spring and summer. In winter they feed on weed seeds and grains.