



The house sparrow is one of the most common birds we see in our gardens. They are small birds that grow up to 15 cm long and weigh between 24 and 32 grams.

The male house sparrow has a chestnut brown back with black streaks. Its head and undersides are grey with a black bib. The female has a plain brown back with darker streaks and a dull brown underside.

House sparrows are noisy birds that can often be seen flying from hidden nest holes in the walls and roofs of buildings. They build a messy nest out of anything they can find, such as: dry plants, feathers, paper and string. The female lays up to eight eggs in a clutch and has three clutches in a year. The eggs are white with grey or blackish speckles. Both the male and female take turns sitting on the eggs until they hatch. The baby birds stay in the nest for another 10 to 14 days until they can fly.

House sparrows eat food such as: grains, seeds, berries, buds, scraps and insects.

They can sometimes be seen having a dust bath, throwing dust and soil over their bodies just as if they were having a real bath.



Questions



Try to answer the questions by writing full sentences.

1. Where would you find a house sparrow?

.....

2. What colour is the male house sparrow's bib?

.....

3. Where do house sparrows build their nests?

.....

4. Name three things that house sparrows use to build their nest.

.....

5. How many eggs does a female lay in a clutch?

.....

6. For how long do the baby house sparrows stay in the nest after they hatch?

.....

.....

7. Name three foods that a house sparrow might find in a garden.

.....

8. Draw a picture of a male house sparrow from the description.



Answers

1. You would find a house sparrow in the garden.
2. The male house sparrow's bib is black.
3. House sparrows build their nests in walls and roofs of buildings.
4. Three of the following named: dry plants, feathers, paper or string.
5. The female lays up to eight eggs in a clutch.
6. The baby house sparrows stay in the nest for 10 to 14 days after they hatch.
7. Three of the following named: grains, seeds, berries, buds, scraps or insects.
8. A picture of a male house sparrow showing a black bib as identification.