

# House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus*

## Description

The House Sparrow is a member of the Old World sparrow family native to most of Europe and Asia. This little bird has followed humans all over the world and has been introduced to every continent except Antarctica. In North America, the birds were intentionally introduced to the United States from Britain in the 1850's as they were thought to be able to help with insect control in agricultural crops. Being a hardy and adaptable little bird, the House Sparrow has spread across the continent to become one of North America's most common birds. However, in many places, the House Sparrow is considered to be an invasive species that competes with, and has contributed to the decline in, certain native bird species. The males have a grey crown and underparts, white cheeks, a black throat bib and black between the bill and eyes. Females are brown with a streaked back (buff, black and brown).

## FUN FACTS



- The House Sparrow is part of the weaver finch family of birds which is not related to North American native sparrows.
- These birds have been in Alberta for about 100 years, making themselves at home in urban environments.
- House Sparrows make untidy nests in many different locales and raise up to three broods a season.
- These birds usually travel, feed, and roost in assertive, noisy, sociable groups but maintain wariness around humans.




If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information [www.calgarywildlife.org](http://www.calgarywildlife.org)



## Contact Us

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