

Starling - *Sturnus vulgaris* (Sturnidae)



Sharp yellow bill

Glossy black body with green and purple sheen



Long, strong, red brown legs



Widespread in the UK and a common, sociable garden bird. Instantly recognisable by its strong-legged walk and waddling run as it pokes and pries in the soil for insects and grubs.

Nesting Bulky nests in tree holes, cavity in walls or large nest box, made of grass, lined with feathers, wool and moss. Lays 4-7 eggs; 1-2 broods; April– July

Feeding They will feed on insects, worms, berries, snails, spiders, fruit, scraps and suet. Catches flying ants in mid-air

Voice Loud, slightly grating cheer, musical, whistled tswée-oo, song fast mixture of trills and a sharp, hoarse sound as an alarm call, often when a predator is in sight

Tree Sparrow - *Passer montanus* (Passeridae)



Rich brown cap

White cheek with square black patch

Black mask and bib

Black and brown streaked back



Plain grey-buff below

Tree sparrows prefer open farmland with well-spaced mature deciduous trees in hedges, isolated small woods or pruned willow tree along slow flowing rivers, streams and ditches.



Nesting they nest in colonies in tree holes, willow trees, farm buildings and nest boxes; lays 4-6 eggs; 2-3 broods; April– July



Feeding often feeds on the ground in company with finches and buntings, feed on small seeds, insects, buds; visits bird feeders.



Voice call loud chirruping and cheeping, plus a tsu-wit, tek-tek in flight

Yellowhammer - *Emberiza citrinella* (Emberizidae)



Yellow head
with dusky
stripes



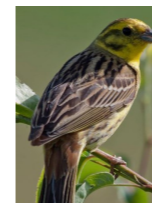
Yellow below
with fine dark
streaks

Black streaks on redish brown back

The yellowhammer prefers a mixed farming landscape with well-managed hedgerows and scrub. They form small groups, with other buntings, to roam the fields in search of seeds.



Nesting nest on or close to the ground in short, dense hedgerow, field margins with long grass, scrub and woodland edges. They particularly favour dense hedges next to ditches, lays 3-5 eggs; 2-3 broods; April– July



Feeding Takes seeds from the ground, and also insects in the summer



Voice call sharp tsik; song thin trill with longer notes at the end, ti-ti-ti-teee-tyew