

# Was That A Chirp?

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WILD NOTES



## NAME

House Sparrow

## DESCRIPTION

Five different species of sparrows are found in India and the House Sparrow (Known in Tamil as Oor Kuruvi) being the most popular. It is believed that the House Sparrow originated in the Mediterranean and expanded its range to Europe with the growth of civilization. Through introduction to islands and continents, it has become one of the most widely distributed land birds in the world. In India, people even consider it as a good omen if the house sparrow builds a nest inside their houses. They are hardy creatures with a life span of 3 to 13 years, able to survive in all temperatures and up to 15,000 feet above sea level.

## HABITAT

From mountains to swamps to cities, you can find house sparrows, yet, they prefer dense and cozy area to build their nests.

## DIET

House sparrows feed primarily on seeds and weeds. Insects such as beetles, aphids and caterpillars also form an important part of their diet.

## INTERESTING FACT

In a recent survey by a New Delhi-based organization, it was found that electromagnetic radiation pollution in Mumbai due to telecommunication towers is 200 percent higher than the permissible limits. For the house sparrow, it causes irritation and reduces their reproductive capacity. Even if it lays eggs, the hatchlings are either destroyed or born with deformities.

## BLOG WATCH



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