

Although House Sparrows may not provide the same appeal as studies of endangered species in natural habitats, their population biology shows responses just as complex relative to the environment. Variation occurs from time to time, from place to place, and from bird to bird. As these factors are examined and interactions understood, patterns of explanation emerge. The excitement and drama are there.

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Table 1. Summary information of nesting activity and success in a suburban House Sparrow colony at Homewood, Illinois.

Year	Boxes ¹	Clutches ²	Eggs ³	Young	Season ⁴
1988	7/6	7/7	32/32	17	12 Apr - 10 Jul
1989	10/9	14/11	47/44	13	11 Apr - 15 Jul
1990	15/13	22/17	73/61	43	24 Mar - 07 Jul
1991	15/13	27/25	115/108	60	10 Apr - 17 Jul
1992	17/17	33/29	135/123	66	15 Apr - 16 Jul
1993	22/22	50/43	198/174	47	12 Apr - 01 Aug
1994	22/20	44/41	195/185	78	29 Mar - 03 Jul
1995	25/23	52/47	232/219	54	01 Apr - 17 Jul

¹ Number of nestboxes available; number of nestboxes used.

² Number of clutches initiated; number of completed clutches.

³ Total eggs laid; total eggs laid in completed clutches

⁴ Date of first egg of first clutch of year and last clutch of year.

Table 2. Comparison of several House Sparrows studies. The following studies, as listed in table, provide data for this table: Pitt (1979), Will (1973), Lowther (1983), Anderson (1978), this study, North (1973), and Anderson (1994) provide data for table.

Site	Lat-Long	Years & Clutches ¹	Mean Clutch	Young/ Egg	Season
Martin, TN (suburb)	36-089	2/33	4.	0.27	??Mar - ??Aug
(rural)		1/27	4.9 ²	0.40	
McLeansboro, IL	38-088	3/337	4.56	0.35	20 Mar - 10 Aug
Portage des Sioux, MO	39-090	5/620	4.67	0.40	17 Mar - 14 Aug
Lawrence, KS	39-096	4/1423	5.14	0.40	07 Mar - 25 Aug
Homewood, IL	41-087	8/220	4.61	0.37	24 Mar - 01 Aug
Coldspring, WI	43-089	1/76	4.81 ³	0.31	09 Apr - 10 July
Pellston, MI ⁴	45-087	6/340	4.96	0.56	?? Apr - ?? Aug

¹ Years of study/number of completed clutches.

² Based on 2 years, 40 clutches

³ Based on 2 years, 103 clutches

⁴ Field season missed first clutches.

Figure 1. House Finch in Illinois, 1987-1995. Data provided by Project FeederWatch. Modified from graphs provided by Ken Rosenberg, Chief Scientist, Project FeederWatch.

