

Common name: Etourneau sansonnet (Common Starling)

Scientific name: Sturnus vulgaris

Description: A Common Starling is a medium sized bird that measures about 8 inches. It is brown with a long sharp grey beak, brown feathers with white spots, triangular pointed wings and a short tail. Its eyes are deep brown, almost black and its legs are pink. This is their appearance during winter, but during summer they have bright yellow beaks, red feet and more plumage.

When in the air, this type of bird has a flight that is fast and direct. When it is on the ground, it walks and runs confidently. Otherwise, starlings mostly eat when on the ground or on plants. They typically feed on soft foods such as insects, grain, seeds and flowers.

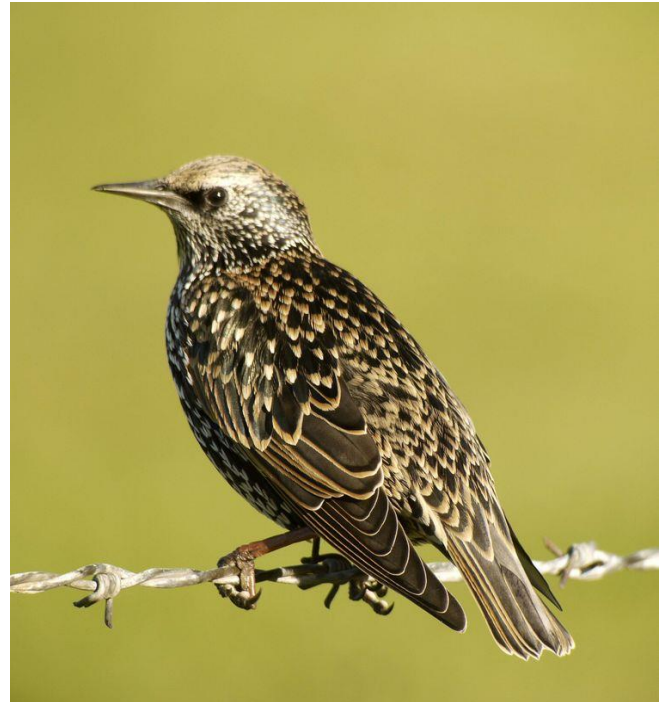
Where does it stay? Common Starlings are often seen in urban or suburban environments (open woodlands, forest edges, gardens, cities, or farmlands) as it is easy to find food in these areas. This bird normally lives in groups with other Common Starlings.

Is it a migrator? Starlings always travel in groups. They do not migrate much, but during winter some populations move southwards. In Europe, they mostly fly in large groups towards North Africa or even Mexico. However, during the reproductive season, some populations migrate towards the North and West of Europe.

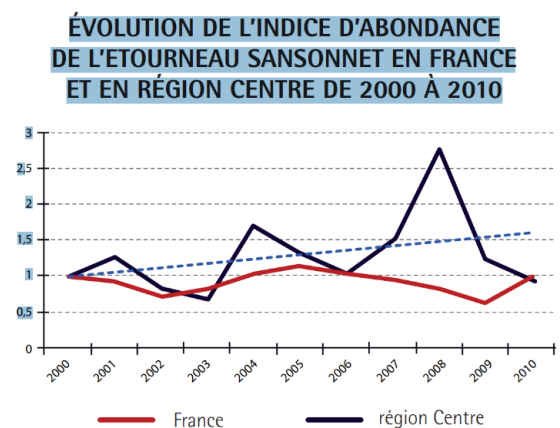
Estimated population in Europe: The European population is estimated between 200,000 and 510,000 pairs. The species has declined in numbers in northern and western Europe since the 1980s due to fewer grassland invertebrates, which they normally feed on.

Lieu d'observation : Infront of my window on an electricity pole and electric wires, next to some plants.

Other facts: This type of bird is a songbird. It is highly intelligent and can mimic songs or sounds of other birds and animals (frog calls, goats, cats). Other than that, Common Starlings are also very smart and curious birds that can obey commands, talk and even perform tricks. However, they can also be very noisy.



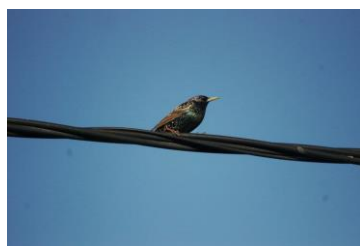
Graph showing the evolution of the species in France from 2000 to 2010



Picture : birds with wings open



Picture : Surroundings where I saw the bird



Picture : Myself in the place I saw the bird

