

Passer montanus

Eurasian tree sparrow

In late April 1870, a shipment of European birds from Germany was released in St. Louis, Missouri, in order to provide familiar bird species for newly settled European immigrants. The shipment included 12 hardy Eurasian Tree Sparrows. These chestnut-capped, white-cheeked arrivals prospered in the hedges and woodlots of the region, ultimately spreading through northeastern Missouri, west-central Illinois, and southeastern Iowa. Unlike its relative, the House Sparrow, it is not a bird of cities, instead using farms and lightly wooded residential areas.

His size is about 14 cm

His weight is about 19-25 g

He's only slightly smaller than the House Sparrow, and thinner in appearance.

Unlike the latter, it does not show sexual dimorphism : both males and females have a reddish-brown cap (lead-grey cap in the male of the cap in the male, no cap in the female); the white cheek is marked, the nape of the neck with a white band, the bib is smaller ; the wing has a double white bar.

In the juvenile, the cap is greyish in the centre

The cheek patch is absent or barely visible.

In summer and autumn it is found in rural areas with other finches and buntings.

He is partially migratory; Sedentary in Western Europe.

Migratory populations in extreme north-eastern Europe and northern Asia join the sedentary population in Western Europe where migratory movements in small-scale exist.

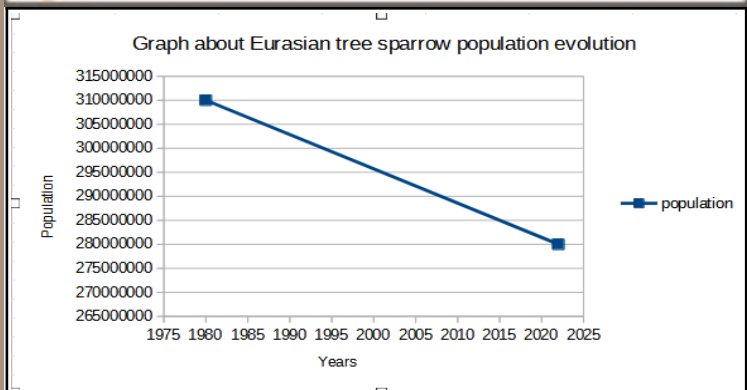
In spring the young ones disperse around their birthplace before settling down.

There are 310 million individuals

X (didn't found any informations about this subject)

I found him at the river called « the Roubion »

When is a sparrow not a sparrow? The Eurasian Tree Sparrow and House Sparrow are in a different family (Passeridae) from all the rest of the sparrows in North America (Passerellidae) and are not closely related. If you look carefully, you'll notice that the body proportions and beak shapes are quite different between the two groups. The oldest recorded Eurasian Tree Sparrow in North America was at least 4 years old when it was recaptured and released during a banding operation in Illinois in 1972.



* From the graph about Eurasian tree sparrow population evolution, we can see that the population has decreased over the years : In 1980, the Eurasian tree sparrow population was : 310 millions. In 2022, the Eurasian tree sparrow population is : 280 millions. This is due to the fact that the Eurasian tree sparrow population has been affected by changes in agricultural policy and management, the spread of avian malaria or the effects of air pollution.



Picture of the bird with his wings



Picture of the surroundings where I saw the bird

Myself in the place I saw the bird