

Is House Sparrow Activity Influenced by Temperature?

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This year I have decided to study House Sparrows at the bird blind. They can be found near where humans live, and in deserts, extensive woodlands, grasslands, and forests. What I decided to find out this year was if the temperature was a true factor in the activity and numerously seen House Sparrows at the bird feeder at my school.

My prediction is if it is 3° C (37° F) or below, then I expect to see more House Sparrows than when it is warmer, like 15° C (59° F). I chose this because in Fahrenheit, 3° C is 37°, and that is some cold.



Tufted Titmouse

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It should be cold enough for there to be lots of House Sparrows to see if my hypothesis is right or wrong.

My study population, which is all ready known, is House Sparrows. My independent variable was the temperature, meaning what it feels like outside. My dependent variable was the number of House Sparrows seen, or how many are at the bird blind when we go down to get data.

For 7 days I observed the birds, and each time saw one or two House Sparrows or more. Before

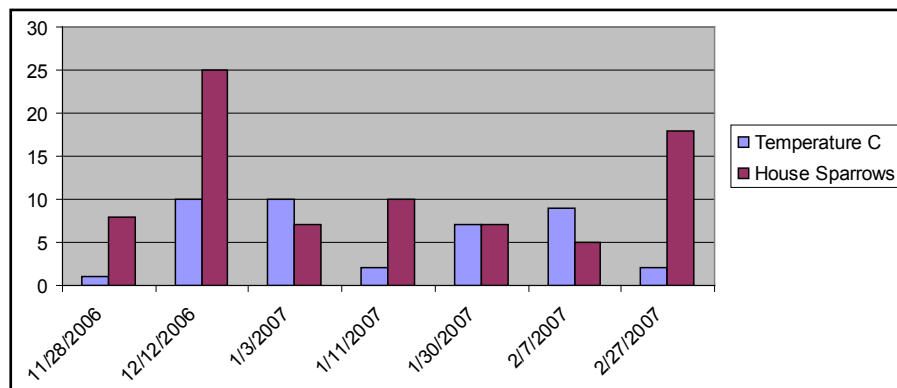
we would go down, we would collect the weather data.

Each time I brought down my pencil, bird binder with tally sheets in it, and sometimes my bird book. At the bird blind, my class and I would sit down, look at the time, and start bird watching, seeing all the different kinds of birds there at the time. Sometimes we would see a lot of birds, and sometimes we would see a few only. Every time we went down our biology teacher brought binoculars for us to use if we wanted to. At the bird blind, our biology teacher keeps the birds well fed with black oil sunflower seeds, and other wild birdseed. When we got back to the classroom, sometimes we entered our data into eBird.org. We would usually be outside for 10 to 25 minutes.

On one day, there was seen 25 House Sparrows, which was the most seen on the 7 days I had observed. It was 10° C on that day. The lowest number of House Sparrows seen in my observation period was 5, and it was 9° C outside. Every day I went out I saw House Sparrows. The temperature fluctuated between 10° C to 1° C during the 7 days.

By my observations and data, the temperature did not affect the amount of House Sparrows seen on any given day. When the most were seen, it was 10° C outside! That pretty much tells me that the temperature does not affect the birds as much as I thought it would. On the day when it was 1° C, I

saw 8 House Sparrows anyway. The lowest seen was 5, and it had been 9° C outside! I must reject my hypothesis because my data refutes it.



When I had started this report, I had thought that the temperature was a factor in the number of House Sparrows seen each day when I went birding at school. I really thought that if it was colder, there would be more House Sparrows, but that is not true. I can think of a few reasons why my hypothesis was rejected. One, my class is very noisy! Second, on the days we went out, it wasn't just cold or warm, it may have been raining, snowing, or blowing like crazy. The temperature is part of the weather, and the weather should be considered a

continued on page 5

continued from page 4

factor too. Another one is about the main feeder. During a windstorm, a tree had taken down the roof. Since that is one of the main places to keep dry under, it could have prevented birds coming also. And last but not least, I only did birding for 7 days. If more had been done, there could have been better data to see if my hypothesis actually could have stayed true.

By looking at other data from a previous year, I can see that sometimes when it was cold, there would be more House Sparrows. But even when it was cold, there would sometimes be fewer House Sparrows. But when it was warm, there wouldn't be as many. Only a few were seen.

I hope you liked this report and gained something from it. House Sparrows are numerous in America, even if they weren't first native to this land. They like humans and hang around woodlands that are near civilization. Thank you for reading.



Mallard Duck

by Andres, Grade 3, PEARLS Elementary School
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Song Sparrow

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