

SPARROW



KEEPERS

Artist Kerry Lemon has created a series of public artworks for Didcot's Great Western Park celebrating the much-loved yet declining house sparrow.



To inform the artworks, she led a cross-generational community project across GWP.

This booklet tells that story...



STEP ONE

Nursery children from Bright Horizons received Sparrow Postal Kits, which they used to devise imaginative questions about bird life.

They also joined a creative session with digital cameras to capture the world from a sparrow's-eye view and gathered natural objects for a nature table.



I AM A
HOUSE SPARROW
Passer domesticus

Please colour
me in

What do
I eat?



What question would you
ask?

hello!

Artist Kerry Lemon is busy creating a new
for Great Western Park (GWP). These
the local sparrows and she's getting to

You have been chosen to represent
SPARROW EXPLORER, older partner
SPARROW GUARDIANS and the

This kit is for **SPARROW EXPLORER**
VERY IMPORTANT jobs for you

First up... your sparrow sheet,
special space to ask a sparrow
Where they sleep? or What
of questions you can turn over
(you never know... you might)

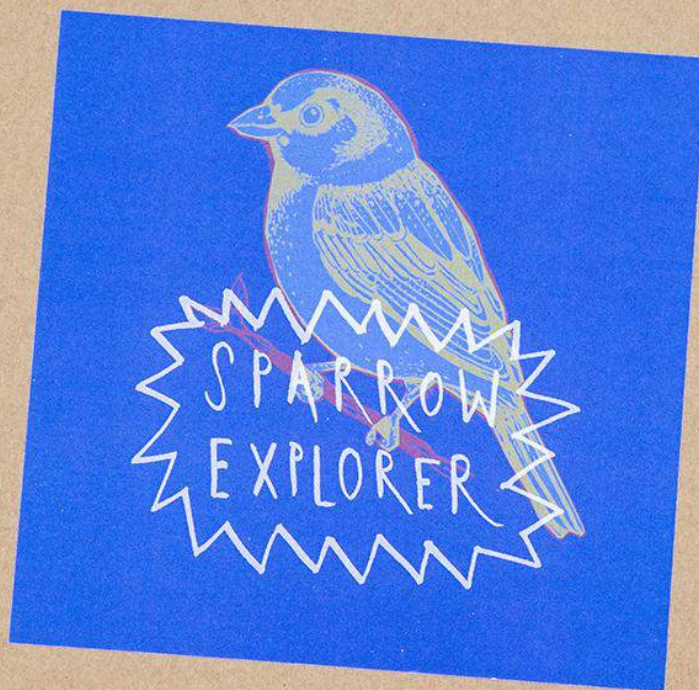
Then... please fill this card
the outdoors that you think
feather? a pretty leaf? a

Kerry will be visiting
collect your sparrow
local care home to see
some answers to your questions

At the end of the project, Kerry will make
sparrows and how you helped her! So THANK YOU
brilliant **SPARROW EXPLORER**! x

www.kerrylemon.co.uk







I AM A
HOUSE SPARROW

Passer domesticus

Please colour
me in



What do
I eat?

What
is

What
I scared of?

What question would you like to ask a sparrow?
Why are your feathers that colour?

I AM A
HOUSE SPARROW

Passer domesticus

Please colour
me in



What do
I eat?

Where do
I sleep?

What am
I scared of?

What question would you like to ask a sparrow?
What sound do you make
sparrow?

I AM A
HOUSE SPARROW
Passer domesticus

Please colour
me in

What do
I eat?



Where do
I sleep?

What am
I scared of?

What question would you like to ask a sparrow?

What is your favorite food?

I AM A
HOUSE SPARROW
Passer domesticus

Please colour
me in

What do
I eat?



Where do
I sleep?

What am
I scared of?

What question would you like to ask a sparrow?

What do you do in the night?



































STEP TWO

The objects collected by the Bright Horizon Nursery children were used in a 'Nature Connection' Namaste sensory session at Oxford Manor care home.



Artist Kerry Lemon engaged residents sound, taste, smell and touch to explore memories of sparrows.



A photograph of a dried, pressed hydrangea flower cluster, which is yellowish-brown in color. The flower is attached to a thin, brown stem. A white, rectangular tag with a hole at the bottom left is tied to the stem with a piece of white string. The tag has the word "HYDRANGEA" written on it in blue ink. The background is a light-colored, textured surface. To the left of the main flower, there are some other dried plant parts, including a green leaf and some brown, winged structures. To the right, there is a small, circular object made of white string.

HYDRANGEA



FIR
CONES





FIELD
MAPLE









HAWTHORN



OAK







WALNUT



CONKERS



STEP THREE

Residents at Poppy Meadows responded to the Bright Horizon Nursery queries. Creating handwritten letters to the children, answering their questions in the voice of a sparrow.



Throughout that Autumn adults across GWP joined the project by writing a letter from a sparrow to a nursery child.



Tweet

Tweet

Tweet

Dear Sparrow Explorer

You asked how far I fly in 2 days.
Well, I don't like to travel very far.
I don't go very far away from my nest.
I only fly about 2-5 km per day - lots
of little journeys! Lots of love from
TINA the sparrow xxx

Dear Sparrow explorer,

My name is Sienna and I'm a house
sparrow.

Let me tell you a little bit about me.

I live in the U.K. all year round. I like to
be with other sparrows, we live together
in big groups, sometimes there are as
many as one hundred of us!! We hide in
hedges and bushes - we like to be near
people and food.

We eat mainly seeds and grain but also
like human food scraps like cake, bread
crumbs and fruit.

Maybe you could leave some kitchen scraps
on a bird table for me and my friends.
If you listen carefully you might hear me
chirp chirping near your school or in
your garden.

Chirp chirp

Sienna Sparrow

Dear Sparrow Explorer.

You asked me what sound I make. }

The answer is that I make a chirping
sound with my friends — we all
sing to-gether

Love From

Georgina the Sparrow

x



Sparrow

Have you ever eaten berries from a bush?
or crumbs left from a picnic?

Had a tug of war with a juicy worm

Well I have as I am a Sparrow.

Would your mum allow you to play in
a puddle or roll in dust to clean yourself
Well mine does. As I am a Sparrow

I have plenty of friends and if
you sit quietly on a park bench
I may come close to see you

As I am a Sparrow

We play hide & seek in the hedgrows
& trees and when it's bed time
We snuggle up on the branches camouflaged
from you this is what we do as I am a Sparrow
We are mainly brown and grey with a splash
of white.

This is because I am a Sparrow

The Sparrow

I'm Shane the Sparrow

I live near your house

I make my home under
the eaves or in a hedge

~~I eat seeds and insects~~

We love to chirp together

And love to ^{have} ~~take~~ a bath

Dust baths or water baths

We're not fussed.

We like to eat seeds and ^{berries} ~~insects~~
But my babies like juicy insects best

If you listen carefully, you
might hear our chirp

But please be careful

We are afraid of you

But we also need your help

We are losing our homes

Through loss of hedges

And also pesticides.

by

Tracy.

Dear Children,

I hear you've been asking about me.

Thank you for being interested in my life
I will try and paint a picture so you
can ~~reg~~ recognise me, if you see me in
the park or your garden.

I am small and shades of brown. I
measure about 16 cm from my beak to the
tip of my tail feathers. I am a light
weight, weighing between 24 and 39 grams.

I'm a lady sparrow so a bit smaller than my
male friends. I love to chirp and keep in
contact with my friends and family.

My older relatives originate from the
Middle East (Iran, Iraq, Egypt + Turkey) but
I have always lived in Didcot.

I hope this helps you know me better.

Kindest regards

Sally Sparrow.

I am a little house sparrow
I live in bushes in your garden
I'm happy to forage for food
Until the ground starts to harden

In the frosty winter months
I am thankful that you feed me
I eat the seeds and fat balls
That you kindly leave for my tea

I love to have a water bath
In the bowl you supply for me
It helps to keep my feathers clean
And you generously don't charge a fee

I chatter with my neighbours
I chirp a merry song
I join in with your church bells
As they merrily ding and dong

I love living in your garden
But I really fear your cat
I hope he doesn't hurt my babies
I wouldn't, not at all, like that

So thank you for your kindness
To help look after us
Sparrows need friends like you
Kind and caring, without any fuss.

A sparrow's whisper

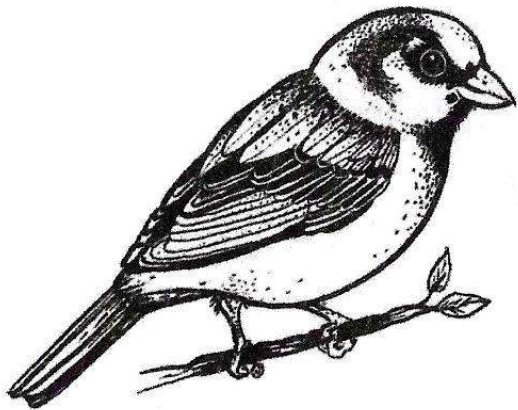
I was an unremarkable sparrow,
wondering everywhere like a gypsy fellow.

One day I unexpectedly flew to your window,
You comforted me with gentle hands that eased
my sorrow.

You let me sleep beside your pillow.

You are a guiding light, showing me where
to follow -

But just tell me ... Will you still love me
in every tomorrow?



By Catherine Wong

16-11-2025



Chack

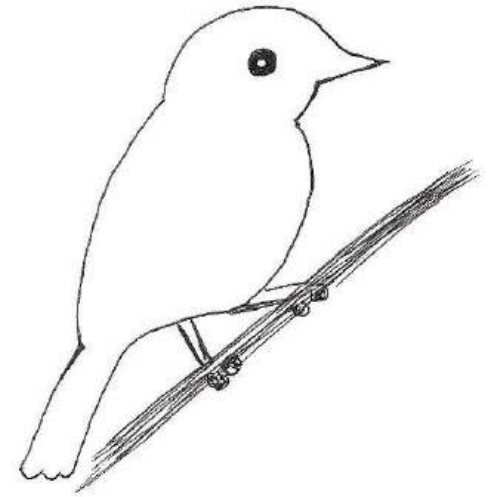
A flash of white beneath the eaves
At Poppy Meadows you will see
A tiny dart of whispers flight
A silent echo in the night.

I saw you first a youngster small
Exploring skies through autumn fall
Your diving dips, through hesitant flight
Your wings that flutter a spec of white.

A silent chorus of a joyous crowd, you sit in line and look
so proud
Now the season starts to turn, you spread your wings,
your energy burns
You start your journey to pastures fond
Through brilliant skies across the pond
To yonder far and sunny skies, to distant lands where
other fly.

A flash of white, beneath the eaves, at Poppy Meadows
you now see, the returning flight, flickers from the past
You return with a new generation at last.

C. Clack



Dear Sparrow Explorer

Thank you for your question.
I'm Seth a Didcot house sparrow.

You asked what I do at night.
Well, I sleep in my nest, in a
hedge or a bush. Some of my
friends nest under roof tiles
or in holes in brick walls,
maybe near you.

Seth
chirp, chirp.



**T
H
A
N
K

Y
O
U**

**Oxford Manor
Care Home**

Poppy Meadows

Bright Horizons Nursery

Emma Brown Photography

Sustainable Didcot

Age UK Oxfordshire

