

Ecological factsheet - house sparrow nest boxes

House sparrow nest boxes

HMP2 Permanent house sparrow nest box
HMP3 Permanent house sparrow nest box
HMP4 Permanent house sparrow nest box
HMT1 Temporary house sparrow nest box
HMT2 Temporary house sparrow nest box
HMT1 Temporary house sparrow nest box
UNH1 Uni Nest Box House Sparrow

General information

Occupancy rate

A Sovon study into the use of alternative nesting opportunities by house sparrows found that integrated nest bricks for house sparrows had an occupancy rate of 22% (Wortel et al., 2023). House sparrow nest boxes had an occupancy rate of 15%. A Polish study into nest box occupancy after refurbishment also showed that house sparrows were able to find new nest boxes relatively quickly (Dulisz et al., 2022).

In addition, Vogelbescherming recommends installing nest boxes or house sparrow terraces to create nesting opportunities for house sparrows (Vogelbescherming, n.d.).

Influence of environmental factors

The success of a house sparrow provision also strongly depends on environmental factors that influence nest-site selection by house sparrows. Examples include the vegetation present and the type of building (Wortel et al., 2023). In general, a successful breeding colony of house sparrows requires three conditions in the surrounding environment: sufficient food, sufficient cover, particularly from evergreen shrubs, and sufficient nesting sites. If nesting sites are lacking, house sparrow nest boxes can be a good option (Unitura, 2021).

Furthermore, the more alternative nesting sites are provided, the greater the chance that house sparrows will use at least one of them (Bij12, 2023). The success of alternative nesting opportunities can also be increased by allowing an acclimatisation period. During this period, both the original and the new provisions are present, enabling the house sparrows to explore the new provisions in advance. The chance of success can also be increased by creating the new nesting site as close as possible to the original nesting site (Bij12, 2023).

Formal requirements for provisions

Various institutes set requirements for artificial nesting opportunities for house sparrows. For which functions/species/types of nesting sites do Unitura's house sparrow nest boxes meet these requirements?

Bij12 House Sparrow Knowledge Document requirements

The following requirements apply to a house sparrow nesting site according to the Bij12 House Sparrow Knowledge Document; see also p. 41 of the Knowledge Document (Bij12, 2023):

Roost/nesting site type	Internal dimension requirements	Complies
Nesting opportunity	Length 12.5 cm, width 12.5 cm height 12.5 cm entrance hole diameter 3.4 cm	Yes

NKNB requirements

The following requirements apply to a house sparrow nesting site according to the NKNB:

Species	Roost/nesting site	Internal dimension requirements	Complies
House sparrow	Nesting opportunity	Length 12.5 cm, width 12.5 cm entrance hole diameter 3.5 cm	Yes*

*The entrance hole of the HMP2, HMP3, HMT1, HMT2 and HMTH1 has a diameter of 3.4 cm, which falls within a reasonable margin of the specified 3.5 cm. Only the UNH1 (Uni Nest Box House Sparrow) has an entrance hole of 3.5 cm.

Source: <https://nknb.nl/soort/huismus/>

SOVON requirements

The following requirements apply to a house sparrow nesting site according to Sovon:

Species	Roost/nesting site	Internal dimension requirements	Complies
House sparrow	Nesting opportunity	Length 25 cm, width 13 cm height 14 cm entrance hole diameter 3.5 cm	Yes*

*The entrance hole of the HMP2, HMP3, HMT1, HMT2 and HMTH1 has a diameter of 3.4 cm, which falls within a reasonable margin of the specified 3.5 cm. Only the UNH1 (Uni Nest Box House Sparrow) has an entrance hole of 3.5 cm.

Source: <https://pub.sovon.nl/pub/publicatie/20996>

Proven effectiveness

Definition used here

The extent to which it is plausible that a provision, when installed correctly, will be used by specific species for specific functions. This plausibility must be supported by data.

Proven effectiveness:

Species	Roost/nesting site	Functionality	Status
House sparrow	Nesting site	++	Scientifically proven

Source: <https://nknbnl/maatregel/nestkast-gierzwaluw-huismus-achter-gevelplaat/>

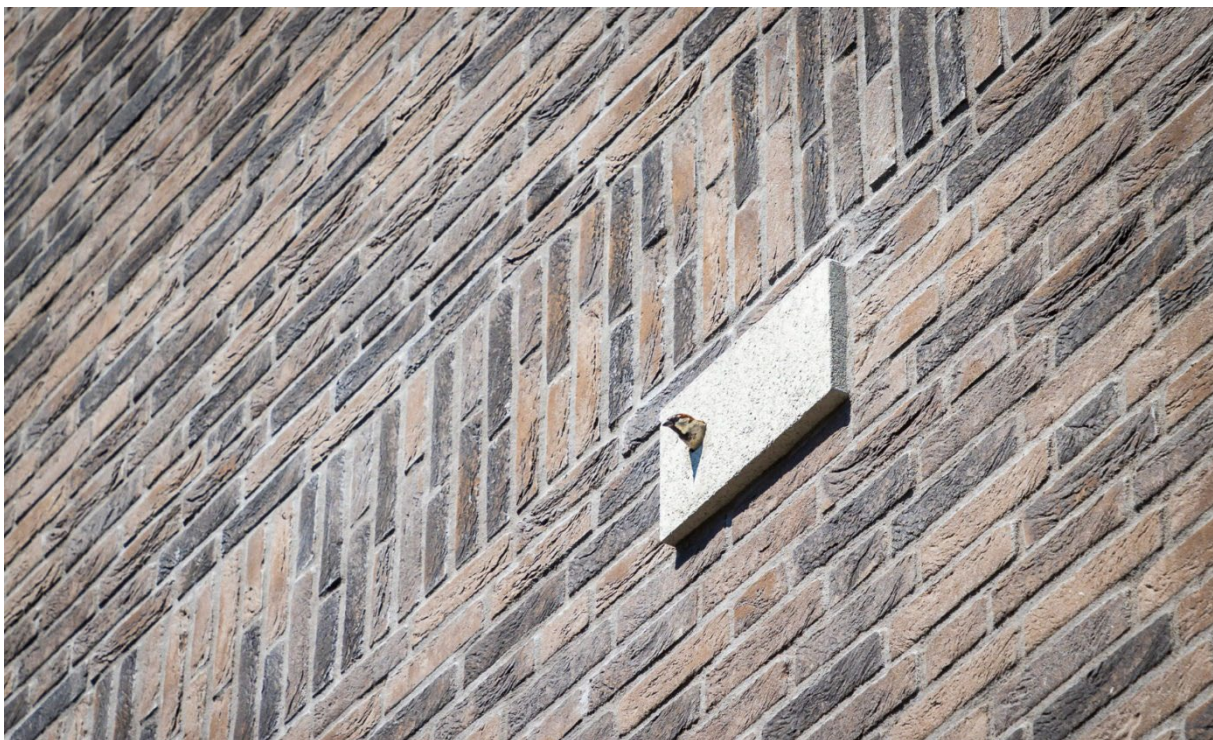


Figure 1: A house sparrow in nest box HMP2

Sources

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