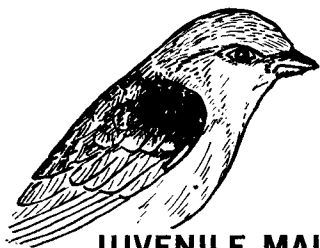




**MALE
HOUSE SPARROW**



**FEMALE
HOUSE SPARROW**



**JUVENILE MALE
HOUSE SPARROW**



TREE SPARROW

By H. J. de S. Disney and drawings by Sondra Beresford, Australian Museum, Sydney.

This "Bird in the Hand" gives differences between House Sparrows and Tree Sparrows, as these may not be generally known. Some differences in age and plumage are also given.

It should be remembered that colours of the soft parts (bill, iris, legs and eyering skin) are not fixed and may vary even after the bird is adult, as illustrated by male House Sparrows. Also, presence or absence of gape alone does not necessarily mean the bird is juvenile; this applies particularly with some of the honeyeaters.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Length 5½ inches.

MALE. Adult: **Breeding:** Bill black. Throat and front of breast black.

Winter: Bill horn. Black on throat and breast partly concealed by whitish fringe to feathers.

1st Winter: Similar to adult. Crown less pure grey. Black on throat and breast more hidden by white. No good character to distinguish this from adult except skull ossification as some birds may go straight into breeding condition.

FEMALE. Adult: Bill dark horn brown; base of lower mandible yellowish. Crown brownish tinged olive. Buff stripe behind eye.

1st Winter: Similar to adult.

JUVENILE: Similar to female. Gape obvious yellow. Bill brownish or purplish horn, base whitish or yellow. No reliable sex differences until about 2½ months old when chestnut patch appears on "shoulders" (lesser coverts) of wings of male.

Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

Length 5½ inches.

Sexes alike.

Differs from House Sparrow in smaller size, all dark chestnut crown, black ear patches, and double wing bar.

1st Winter: Similar to adults.

JUVENILE: Similar to adult. Crown duller and paler chestnut; ear coverts and throat greyish black.