

# EUROPEAN STARLING

## INFO SHEET

### General Information

Starlings were introduced in New York over a hundred years ago. These birds may produce two groups of offspring per year, each with four to seven babies.

<b>Size:</b>	Varies	<b>Common Name:</b>	European Starling
<b>Shape:</b>	Bird	<b>Kingdom:</b>	Animalia
<b>Color:</b>	Varies	<b>Phylum:</b>	Chordata
<b>Legs:</b>	2	<b>Class:</b>	Aves
<b>Wings:</b>	Yes	<b>Order:</b>	Passeriformes
<b>Antenna:</b>	No	<b>Family:</b>	Sturnidae
		<b>Genus Species:</b>	Sturnus vulgaris

### Diet

Starlings love seeds but in the spring and summer they look for baby insects (grubs). They will **forage** in open trash containers and will eat spilled food in parks and picnic sites.

### Habitat

Starlings can be found anywhere from farms to cities. They usually travel in flocks and graze in short grass. They also build nests in trees or in gutters.

### Impact

Starlings will nest in trees and eat fruit, making them a big problem for fruit farmers.

Their droppings may weaken steel and lead to structural damage. When their droppings get on the ground, **fungus** grows and can lead to diseases such as **histoplasmosis**. Starlings are also known for flying into airplanes, occasionally causing them to crash.

### Prevention

- \* Seal openings in your house so the Starlings can't build their nests there.
- \* Trim trees and keep gutters clean. Loud noises also make them go away.

To learn more about this and other birds, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/birds.html>