

## Thank you for helping Beddington Farmlands tree sparrows


Tree sparrows (shown on the left below) are the country cousins of the common house sparrow (Male and female shown on the right). Both males and females look similar to male house sparrows, but have a brown instead of a grey cap and a distinctive black spot on each cheek.



**Tree sparrow**



**Male and female house sparrows**

To help distinguish between the two, we'll be putting a  red ring on the right leg of every tree sparrow chick hatched this year. Standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) metal rings will be fitted to the left leg to aid tracking.

Beddington farmlands sit south of Mitcham Common and west of Croydon. There are 400 acres of mixed habitats. It is owned by Thames Water and managed by Viridor; the site is not generally open to the public.



Tree sparrows have three broods a year, starting in May, with a second in June and the third in July. These chicks will fledge and start to leave the colony within weeks.

We need people living around Beddington Farmlands and beyond to keep an eye out for the young birds and to report sightings to us, by emailing: [LTS@rspb.org.uk](mailto:LTS@rspb.org.uk)

All you need to do is record when and where you saw the ringed bird or birds. If you can get a photo, we'd welcome that too, but details of the sighting are enough.

The most important things to record are the date and the location. Be as specific as you can. A house number is useful but postcodes will do. If you know the Ordnance Survey grid reference, or have a GPS enabled smartphone that pinpoints your location, that data would be welcome too.

See over for an example of an email sighting.

To.. [LTS@rspb.org.uk](mailto:LTS@rspb.org.uk)  
Subject: Sighting

Hi.

I saw a group of five tree sparrows with the red rings on their legs in my garden today, Monday 27 June at about 3 o'clock.

They had stopped off to feed from my bird table before heading off eastwards. They stayed for about an hour.

My address is Cubitt Street, Sutton and my postcode is .../ The grid reference numbers shown on my GPS/Navigation/mobile device are ...

Yours,

Theresa Sparrow.