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| **Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*  [Linnaeus, 1758] 1** |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/dgline.gif |

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| **Jump to:**[Other Names](https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/results/bob15820.htm#onames) | [Trends & Distribution](https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/results/bob15820.htm#trends) | [Breeding & Survival](https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/results/bob15820.htm#demography) | [Biometrics](https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/results/bob15820.htm#biometrics) | [Books & Links](https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/results/bob15820.htm#more_info) |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/dgline.gif | | | | |

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| For details point at or click the https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif button; for sources point at the https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif button | *Date created*: 27-November-2017 |

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| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/15820.jpg | [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/taxonomic#taxonomy) **Order:**Passeriformes | **Family:**Sturnidae |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/taxonomic#codes) **BTO Codes:**SG, STARL | **EURING No:**15820 |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/key-facts#n_in_britain) **Number in Britain:**1.8 million Pairs (Summer) | |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/key-facts#conservation_status) **Conservation Status:** | |
| **UK: RED** | |
| **European:**Least Concern | |
| **Global:**Least Concern ([Details](http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/factsheet/22710886)) [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif](http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/country/united-kingdom) | |

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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/population#bou_list) **Status in UK:**(A)  Resident Breeder, Passage/Winter Visitor https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif | | |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/taxonomic#subspecies) **Subspecies:** *vulgaris* (RW), ***zetlandicus*** (R) recorded in Britain (of 13 subsp. in the world) | | |
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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/key-facts#biometrics) **Length:**22 cm | **Wingspan:** 40 cm | **Weight:** M/F: 78 g    https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif |

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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/taxonomic#spp_latin) **Scientific name from:** | L.: *sturnus*=a starling and L.: *vulgaris*=common |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/key-facts#world) **World Distribution:** | BREEDS: Europe (except Iberia, Greece), c Asia, WINTERS: s to n Africa, s Asia, INTRODUCED North America, Australasia |

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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/key-facts#habitat)**Habitat:** | Farmland, woodland, towns |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/key-facts#diet) **Diet:** | Mostly insects (esp crane-fly larvae), fruit and seeds, mostly on ground, often near cattle |
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| **Read**  [Bird of the Month](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/species-focus/starling) **Spotlight** | |
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| **Identification Tips:** | | | |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/camera.png  Images from [IBC](http://ibc.lynxeds.com/node/9001?only=photos) or search [flickr](http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=Sturnus%20vulgaris)  https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/video.png  [Videos](http://ibc.lynxeds.com/node/9001?only=videos) from IBC  https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/sound.png  [Sound](http://www.xeno-canto.org/browse.php?species_nr=&query=Sturnus+vulgaris) from xeno-canto | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/crossley.png [Crossley ID photos](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:European_Starling_from_the_Crossley_ID_Guide_Britain_and_Ireland.jpg) | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/pixel.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/pixel.gif |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/dgline.gif | | | |

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| **Population and Distribution 2** |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/birdtrends) **Population Trend:** | [BirdTrends](http://blx1.bto.org/birdtrends/species.jsp?&s=starl) | |  | [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/about) **Regional Trends:** | [Scotland](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/latest-results/trend-graphs/scotland-graphs#starl)   [Wales](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/latest-results/trend-graphs/wales-graphs#starl)   [England](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/latest-results/trend-graphs/england-graphs#starl)   [English Regions](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/latest-results/population-trends/england-regional-trends) | |  | [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/birdatlas) **Distribution:** | [Atlas Mapstore](http://blx1.bto.org/mapstore/StoreServlet?id=457)    [BBS Maps](http://blx1.bto.org/bbs-results/results/countmaps/bbs_abund_map_starling.html) | |
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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/population#popsize) **British Population Size:** |
| **Summer:**1.8 million Pairs in 2009 https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/population#first_occ) **First Record:**Recorded in Anglo-Saxon times https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif [Fossil evidence from Middle Pleistocene, c. 500,000 yr ago] |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif **Latest Survey:**Newson, S.E. et al. (2008) Journal of Applied Ecology 45:1330-1338 |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/population#bocc) **Conservation Status:**RED because Recent Breeding Population Decline (1981-2010), Recent Winter Population Decline (1981-2010), Recent Breeding Range Decline (1981-2010), Recent Winter Range Decline (1981-2010), https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif |
| **Previous Assessments:**2009-2014 RED  https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif   2002-2007 RED  https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif   1996-2001AMBER  https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif |
| **Races of Concern:**vulgaris RED (Recent Decline), zetlandicus AMBER (Important Population) |
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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/population#habitat) **Habitat Occupancy (in the Breeding Season):** |
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| **Most frequent in:** Towns |
| **Also common in:** Villages |
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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/population#habitat) **Relative Frequency in Each Habitat:** | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col25.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col5.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col20.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col15.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col5.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col40.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col30.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col15.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col10.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col25.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col20.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col70.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/col100.gif |  | |  | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/woodb.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/woodc.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/scrub.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/heath.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/moor.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/pasture.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/arable.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/marsh.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bog.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/reed.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/coastal.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/village.gif | https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/town.gif |  | |
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| **Migration routes:** Map of foreign [ringing recoveries](javascript:popWin('./map15820.htm','help',800,700,'yes'))  and summary map from[Time to Fly](javascript:popWin('./ttf15820.htm','help',500,675,'yes')) (in pop-up windows) |
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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/population#eur_popsize) **European Population Size: 3** |
| **Summer:**21 to 46 million pairs (of which c. 5 % breed in Britain)   ([Trend in Numbers](http://www.ebcc.info/index.php?ID=380&one_species=15820)) https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif |
| Population Assesment from [*Birds in Europe*](http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/userfiles/file/Species/BirdsInEuropeII/BiE2004Sp6815.pdf) |
| Distribution in Europe mapped by the [*EBCC Atlas*](http://s1.sovon.nl/ebcc/eoa/?species1=15820) |
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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/population#legal) **Listed on the Appendices/Schedules of:**WCA(III), WBD(II\*), NERC (41) |
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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Survey Results:** | Results from [BirdTrack](javascript:surfto(457,20);) https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif | |  | Results from [Garden BirdWatch](http://blx1.bto.org/gbw-dailyresults/results/gbwr457-20.html) | |  | Results from the [Winter Farmland Bird Survey](http://www.bto.org/survey/complete/wfbs/wfbssqrsg.htm) | |  | Results from [BTO Report for Defra](http://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u32/researchreports/rr290.pdf) | |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/dgline.gif |

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| **Breeding and Survival** |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#egg_size) **Egg Size:** 30 x 21 mm | **Egg Weight:** 7.0 g (of which 6 % is shell) | | |
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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#nrs) **Number of Nest Records:**395 | |  |  |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#clutch_size) **Clutch Size:** 4 - 5 eggs | 4.60 ± 0.94 (2 - 9) N = 2920 https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif | | |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#inc_period) **Incubation:** 12- 15 days | 12.38 ± 1.61 (9.5 - 15.5) N = 2920 | by the: Male + Female |  |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#fledge_period) **Fledging:** 19 - 22days | 20.50 ± 3.25 (15 - 26) N = 5459 | **as:** Altricial, downy https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif |  |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Source:** | British Trust for Ornithology (2005) Nest Record Scheme data | | | | |
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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#season) **First Clutches Laid:** 19 Apr (6 Apr - 30 May) https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif | | |  |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#n_brood) **Number of Broods:** 1-2 | | |  |
| See trends in [Breeding Productivity](http://blx1.bto.org/birdtrends/species.jsp?&s=starl#productivity) | | | |

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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#ringing) **Number Ringed:**[Annual Totals](http://blx1.bto.org/ringta/ringing-totals.jsp?archive_euringNo=15820&archive_year=ALL) | |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#survival) **Adult Survival:**0.687 ± 0.004      https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif   https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif | |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#survival) **Juvenile Survival:**0.518 (in First-Year)   https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif | |
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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#lifespan) **Age at First Breeding:**2 years | [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#lifespan) **Typical Lifespan:**5 years |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/demography#lifespan) **Maximum Age from Ringing:**17 years 7 months 25 days (set in 2001) [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/bk10.gif](http://app.bto.org/ring/countyrec/results2016/longevity.htm#15820) | |
| Read a summary of [Ringing Recoveries](http://blx1.bto.org/ring/countyrec/resultsall/rec15820all.htm) |  |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/dgline.gif | |

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| **Biometrics** | | | | |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/biometrics#ring_size) **Ring Size:**C | | | | |
| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/biometrics#wing) **Wing Length** | **Adult:** | 131.3 ± 3.5 | **Range** | 126 - 137 mm, N =32774 |
|  | **Juvenile:** | 130.2 ± 4.2 |  | 122 - 136 mm, N =10312 |
|  | **Male:** | 132.6 ± 3.1 |  | 128 - 137 mm, N =18182 |
|  | **Female:** | 129.5 ± 3.3 |  | 124 - 135 mm, N =13930 |
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| [https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/biometrics#weight) **Weight** | **Adult:** | 84.99 ± 9.88 | **Range** | 73.30 - 98.00 g , N =24304 |
|  | **Juvenile:** | 81.83 ± 7.59 |  | 70.00 - 95.00 g , N =8104 |
|  | **Male:** | 86.95 ± 9.97 |  | 76.00 - 100.0 g , N =13448 |
|  | **Female:** | 82.50 ± 9.27 |  | 72.00 - 95.00 g , N =10351 |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Source:** | British Trust for Ornithology (2005) Ringing Scheme data | | | | | |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/dgline.gif | | | | |

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| **Other Names** | |
| **Common Starling** | |
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| **Gaelic:** Druid | **Welsh:** Drudwen |
| **Danish:** [Stær](http://www.dofbasen.dk/ART/art.php?art=15820) | **Dutch:** Spreeuw |
| **Finnish:** Kottarainen | **French:** [Étourneau sansonnet](http://www.oiseaux.net/oiseaux/etourneau.sansonnet.html) |
| **German:** Star | **Hungarian:** Seregély |
| **Icelandic:** Stari | **Irish:** [Druid](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/IrelandsBirds/Starling/tabid/446/Default.aspx) |
| **Italian:** Storno | **Norwegian:** Stær |
| **Polish:** Szpak | **Portuguese:** Estorinho-malhado |
| **Spanish:** [Estornino pinto](http://www.enciclopediadelasaves.es/originales/datasheetsolo.asp?IdFicha=516) | **Swedish:** Stare |
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| **Collective Noun:**Murmuration (or Chattering) | |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/dgline.gif | |

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| **For More Information...** |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif **Books and Monographs:** |
| Feare, C. 1984 *The starling*Oxford University Press, Oxford [598.971 FEA] |
| Feare, C.J. 1985 *The Starling*Shire Publications, Princes Risborough [Jour: S] |
| Feare, C.J. 1996 Studies of West Palearctic birds: Starling *British Birds*89:549-567 5 |
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| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/qm11.gif **Links from ConservationEvidence.com:**  [The efficacy of collar-mounted devices in reducing the rate of predation of wildlife by domestic cats](https://www.conservationevidence.com/individual-study/153)  [Nest box orientation affects internal temperature and nest site selection by tree swallows](https://www.conservationevidence.com/individual-study/381)  [A comparison of the characteristics and fate of Barrow's goldeneye and bufflehead nests in nest boxes and natural cavities](https://www.conservationevidence.com/individual-study/1186)  [Lasers as nonlethal avian repellents](https://www.conservationevidence.com/individual-study/2093)  [Chemical bird repellents: possible use in cyanide ponds](https://www.conservationevidence.com/individual-study/2102)  [There are a total of 32 individual studies.](https://www.conservationevidence.com/data/index?terms=%22Sturnus+vulgaris+%22#summaries) |

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| **See Also:** |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/scholar.png [Google Scholar](http://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=%22Sturnus+vulgaris%22&hl=en) search for scientific papers |
| [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Starling) entry |
| [HBW](http://www.hbw.com/species/Common-Starling-Sturnus-vulgaris) account (subscription required) |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/birdlife1.png [BirdLife](http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/species/factsheet/22710886) species page |
| https://blx1.bto.org/birdfacts/images/birdguides.gif Recent sightings and information from [BirdGuides](http://www.birdguides.com/species/species.asp?sp=164078) |
| [All About Birds](http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/framlst/i4930id.html) (from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology) |