A.S.D GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (A),

(Re- Accredited by NAAC with B Grade)

Jagannaickpur, Kakinada-533002, East Godavari, APS

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY & AQUACULTURE TECHNOLOGY

2020-2021



World Sparrow Day

ASD Govt. Degree College for Women (A)

Jagannaickpur, Kakinada Activity register 2019

Date	20-03-2021		
Conducted through	Zoology		
(DRC/JKC/NCC/NSS/Department)	1116		
Nature of Activity	World Sparrow Day		
(Seminar/Workshop/Ext. Lecturer etc.)			
Title of the Activity	World Sparrow Day		
Name of the Department/Committee	Zoology		
Details of Resource Persons	U. Satyanarayana		
(Name. Designation etc.)	V. Badrinarayana		
	B. Sonia		
No. of Students Participated	35		
Brief Report on the Activity	World sparrow day is designed to		
	raise awareness of the house		
	sparrow and then other common		
	birds to urban environments and of		
	threats to their populations observed		
	on 20 th march		
Name of the Lecturers who Planned &	U. Satyanarayana		
Conducted the Activity	B. Sonia		
Signature of the in Charge	Aug 12/2/2013/21		
Signature of the Principal	ms/m		
Remarks			

World Sparrow Day:



Every year on March 20, World Sparrow Day is celebrated all over the globe with an aim to raise awareness and protect the bird. A few years back, house sparrows were easily spotted at the homes of the people. Now, due to the increase in noise pollution, the bird is on the verge of extinction. World Sparrow Day is an international initiative started by the Nature Forever Society in India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and numerous other national and international organisations across the world to impact awareness about the house sparrow and other such birds.

World Sparrow Day 2021: History

On March 20, 2010, the first World Sparrow Day was observed and since then, it is being celebrated every year around the world. The Nature Forever Society was founded by an Indian conservationist named Mohammed Dilawar who has made lots of efforts for several years to raise awareness among the people regarding the importance of conservation of the house sparrow.

World Sparrow Day 2021: Significance:

The main purpose or aim behind celebrating the day is to inform about the significance and importance of conservation and protection of the sparrows and other such birds. People also celebrate the day to admire and protect the beauty of biodiversity and nature.

Various kinds of campaigns, events, activities are organized on this day to encourage people to participate and contribute to the cause by bringing individuals and organisations around the world together.

World Sparrow Day 2021: Theme

The theme for the World Sparrow Day is <u>'I Love Sparrows'</u> and is inspired with the hope that more people will celebrate the relationship between people and sparrows by making them remember the bond they share as people have lived in harmony with these little birds for 10,000 years.

Through this year's theme, the main aim is to highlight how citizens from different wells.

Through this year's theme, the main aim is to highlight how citizens from different walks of life are making amazing differences and expressing their love for sparrows by telling the world how they are helping conserve the little creature.

People are advised to make nests, put water for sparrows during the summer season or can also put bird feeders in gardens or any open area to protect the adorable bird.

Food: Sparrows can be considered as one of the most friendly birds which loves to live in harmony with humans. They are generally spotted at places where human are densely populated. These little birds eat wheat, oat, larvae of mosquitoes, insects, etc.

Major reasons for their declining population:

- Deforestation: Human populations are continuously raising leading to deforestation for making buildings.
- Pollution: Pollutions including noise pollution, soil pollution, water pollution etc. are adversely affecting the population of sparrows.
- Electro-Magnetic Radiation: The use of mobile phones has become a necessity and mobile phone releases electro-magnetic radiations which are considered one of the reasons behind the declining number of birds.

How to protect and conserve the little bird:

- 1. Bird feeders: You can put bird feeders outside your house, in gardens, farms, any open area where these little creatures can come and feed themselves.
- 2. Water bowls: The temperature is increasing day by day therefore it is advised to keep water bowls during the summer season outside the houses for birds to re-hydrate.
- 3. Grow more plants: Plants and trees are the homes of these little birds. Planting trees will not only shelter them but will also help humans in return with oxygen and greenery.
- 4. You are advised to discourage the use of excessive insecticides and pesticides in farms and gardens.
- 5. Use good quality fuel in vehicles to reduce pollution and minimize the use of mobile phones to control the release of electro-magnetic radiation.

How can we bring disappearing sparrows back to our cities:

In 2012, the then Chief Minister of Delhi, Sheila Dikshit, declared house sparrow as the state bird of Delhi. Two years prior to that, the Indian Postal Department had released a stamp of the house sparrow along with the rock pigeon. But what was once the most ubiquitous bird is now fast disappearing from our neighbourhood.

Once again, the blame goes to us, humans, who have robbed them of their food and nesting places. Our indifference is pushing them to the edge of extinction.

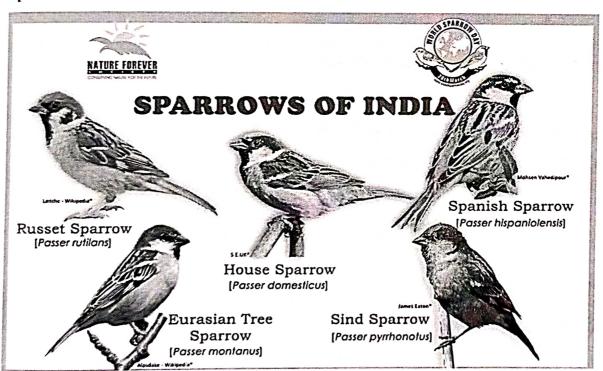
Sparrows are rendered homeless due to modern "matchbox styled" architecture that makes it difficult for the bird to build nests. These winged companions, who used to build nest in holes, roofs and crevices on

traditional houses, are struggling to find a safe corner in glass buildings. It also explains why South Mumbai sees a comparatively larger sparrow population than the western suburbs.

Like sparrows, cavities are important for mynahs and parakeets to make nests.

Blaming the possible extinction of sparrows on mindless urbanisation, Mohammed Dilawar, a conservationist and the founder of The Nature Forever Society, says that the bird is losing its natural habitat and "also the essential human touch they need and thrive upon". Speaking to Down To Earth about the 'Great Sparrow Count' initiative that his organisation has embarked upon, he says, "Historically, we never thought of counting sparrows around us. It never occurred to us that their numbers are declining. In a first-of-a-kind mass outreach programme, especially focussed on India, we are trying to document the population and distribution of 24 different species of sparrows by asking people to monitor and count their number. Once we get the data, we will be able to arrive at a conclusion on total count and its distribution. We intend to make it an annual programme."

Sparrows of India



Not just pesticides used during agriculture, but the chemicals used while storing grain, ultimately find way to the system of a sparrow, causing them to die, says P A Aziz, former director of

Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON). "Unlike conventional shops where we used to pack grains and pulses in paper bags, making some allowance for spillage, the plastic bags in

departmental stores don't allow that spillage, which explains the scarcity of food for these poor birds," he adds.

Sparrows losing their lives because of our lifestyle

The depleting population of sparrows is also attributed to increased use of packaged food. Unlike the earlier days, when women used to clean grain outside their houses and sparrows would have plenty of food from there, the bird is either starved or forced to eat leftover from the packaged foods.

Extensive use of pesticides and insecticides in farms and gardens is also killing the bird's primary food source: insects.

With native plants like *adulsa* and *melmdi* are being fast replaced by non-native plants to aid modern landscaping, the sparrows are losing insects like aphids to feed on. Sparrows need a diet of insects and worms like caterpillars that serve as a protein supplement, particularly during growing up phase of their life. Apart from declining number of insects that they feed on, contemporary landscaping is also doing away with hedges—preferred nesting places for sparrows.

Back in 2011, the expert committee under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), had admitted that electromagnetic radiation (EMR) is largely responsible for the bird's declining numbers. The panel had suggested recognising EMR as a pollutant because of their possible effect on animals and birds. It also pointed out how common house sparrows have declined in numbers in Nagpur, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Ujjain and other cities due to an increasing use of mobile phones.

Sparrows are indicators of environmental health and changes in the urban ecosystem.

What can we do to arrest this decline:

According to the founder of Sparrow's Shelter, Pramod Mane, under whose request the then CM of Delhi declared sparrow as the state bird, "During summers, people should hang artificial bird nests in balconies and put out a pot of water and food for the winged visitors." Sparrow's Shelter was the first organisation in Mumbai to introduce the idea of bird houses in 2008.

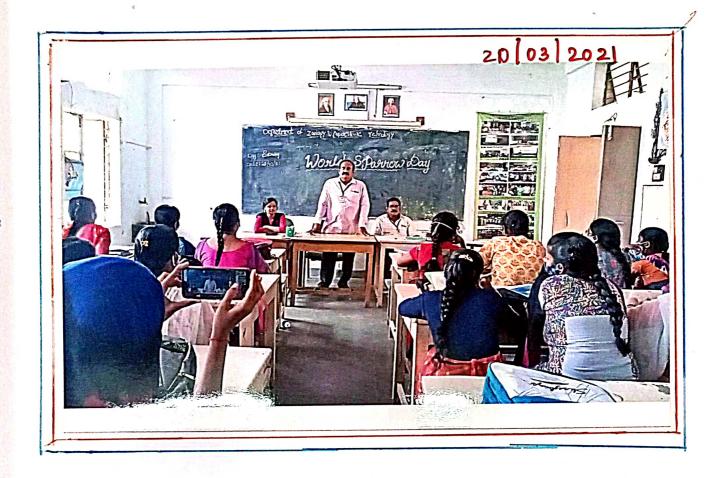
"If we cannot save sparrows, no one else can. In few decades, they would go extinct like dinosaurs. My organisation is trying to make people aware of their responsibility to save the bird because they are only

one responsible for their deaths," says Many. Sparrows were included under the 'threatened' category in the IUCN list.

While we wait for the government to take note of the trend, at an individual level, we can do our bit:

- Kitchen waste could be transferred into bio-manure and the decomposition would help in the development of microbes that these birds feed on.
- Besides water bowls, bird-bath in hot summer afternoon helps birds to rehydrate.
- Plants and hedges, that are native to the place, can be grown. This encourages sparrows to come back.
- Sparrows breed four times a year. Artificial nests outside our homes can help them have a constant and safe place for breeding and to roost.

World Sparrow day



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