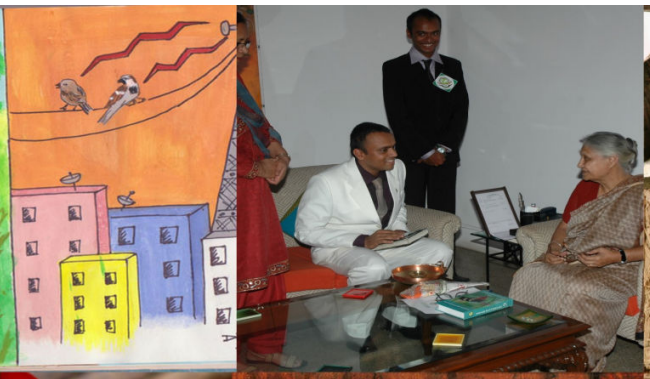

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20th March 2010
www.worldhousesparrowday.org

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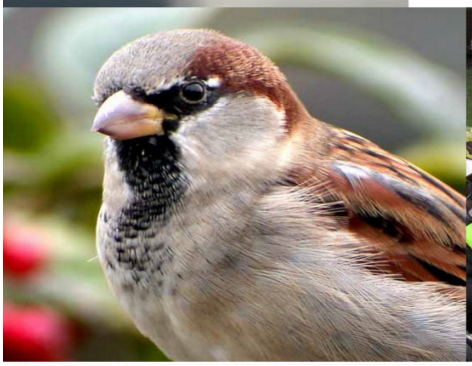

WORLD HOUSE SPARROW DAY 20th March
Avon Wildlife Trust
BNHS
MATHRU FOREVER
ECO-SYS ACTION

Report on the First World House Sparrow Day 20th March 2010

Prepared by

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www.worldhousesparrowday.org

INTRODUCTION

M.E. Dilawar (2010) *Report on First World House Sparrow Day*. Nature Forever Society Report No.001. India

The world House Sparrow Day is an international initiative by Nature Forever Society in collaboration with Bombay Natural History Society, Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) Avon Wildlife Trust (UK) and numerous other national and international organisations across the world.

The first World House Sparrow Day was celebrated on 20th March 2010 in different parts of the World. The day was celebrated by carrying out different kinds of activities and events like art competitions, awareness campaigns, Sparrow processions as well as interactions with media.

The event was widely promoted by the website www.worldhousesparrowday.org which was the nerve centre of the whole event. Organisation's and individuals from across the world were able to use the website for event ideas, downloading photos, logos. The website was also widely used by the media for getting information as well as downloading photos and other information.

More than 180 individuals and organizations from different parts of the world joined the World House Sparrow Day group on Facebook. The group helped a lot in keeping the people updated in regard to the various activities in regard to World House Sparrow Day.

The World House Sparrow Day was celebrated by celebrating events like common bird watching trips, public discussions, exhibitions, presentations, bird rallies, art competitions, educational and public events all aimed at creating more attention to the birds in their neighborhood and their conservation.

The event got extensive press and media coverage as there was immense interest in the media and the masses in regard to the decline of House Sparrows.

Apart from this regular updates in regard to the event were circulated on national and international bird groups which have thousands of members.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT'S

The World House Sparrow Day has turned into a people's moment and many people and organisations have contributed towards this; I am grateful to all of them and sincerely apologies for any omissions. We acknowledge all the individuals, school and college students who celebrated the day with so much enthusiasm all this would have never ever been possible without you.

I am greatly indebted to the all the Trustees of Nature Forever Society, My family without whose support all this would have never been possible. I would also specially like to thank Mr. Christian Pillard of ECO-SYS Action Foundation without whose help and support all this would have never ever been possible. I would also like to thank Mrs. Stella, the designing and creative team who designed the wonderful website at such a short notice. Special thanks' to the team Christian Pillard, Stella Chan and Oan Dilawar for making the wonderful website.

Special thanks to Delhi Chief Minister who gave her kind consent and valuable time to Inaugurate the World House Sparrow Day. Heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Sandeep Mishra (IAS) for all the help in coordinating and making sure the inaugural function was grand success.

I am indebted to Dr. Asad Rahmani for his constant guidance, advice and support. I can never sufficiently express my gratitude to him for giving me an opportunity to be his student and work with him.

We are thankful to the unconditional support of Mrs. Benita Sen and her valuable inputs.

I would also like to thank all my teachers especially to Dr. Gudsoorkar and Dr. T. B. Nikam for all their guidance and help.

We would like to thank Zainab Dilawar and Pavan Patil who designed the wonderful and meaningful logo from a scratch. We would also like to thank Chrisitan Pillard, Dr. Subramanya, Carl D'Silva and Tessaglia-Hymes for their honest comments on the logo.

Photo Credits

We would like to specially thank Aniket B. Dumbare Ambika Chandrasekar, Raghu Ram, Meena Kinkar, Aditya Singh, Vijay Sirdesai, Rhucha Vatturkar, Jeyenth, Subhasis Roy, Cheluvaraj, Nanda Ramesh, Pavan Rao, Suhas Joshi, Mani, Alok Bhave, Mrudul Godbole, Nikhil Devasar, Sanjay Sondhi, Chaitanya Rajarshi, Mrudul Godbole, Harish Bhat and all the people who have generously contributed with their valuable photos because of which the website looks so colourful. They also gave their kind consent for the photo to be used freely which helped media

and many organisations which used these royalty free images. We were overwhelmed by the response to our appeal for contributing quality photos for the website.

Script editing

The easy reading and simple text for the website would not have been possible without the magic of Benita Sen and Beena Parmar's pen. We are deeply indebted to the help extended by them.

Friends in Media

The World House Sparrow Day will be best remembered as people's moment to save the Common's Man Bird by the Common Man. The amount of awareness which was created for the World House Sparrow Day would have never been possible without the support of our friends from media. I would like to thank Benita Sen, Mrityunjay Bose, Rama Devi, Amin Qureshi, Beena Parmar, Quaid Najmi, E Gopal, Nideesh Tyagi, Kaptan Mali, Rekha Dixit, Shella Reddy, Shwetha Kannan and to all friends from media we sincerely apologies for any omissions.

We would also like to thank all media Houses for the support extended by them in making the World House Sparrow Day a grand success in different parts of the World.

All this would have never ever been possible without the support extended by you all.

Nature Forever Society

At Nature Forever Society we would like to thank Esmail Dilawar, Duriya Dilawar, Oan Dilawar, Zainab Dilawar, Saifffudin Indorewala, Batul Vajihi, Zoher Postwala, Nafisa Postwala, Murtuza Indorewala, Tasneem Indorewala, Insiya Indorewala, Deepak Nikam, Rajendra Chajeed and Dhananjay Sharma.

All the members of Nature Forever Society and all the Nest box adopters without whose support we would have been able to do little.

Special thanks for Mr. Oan Dilawar who single handedly made sure that everything from website updates to making of banners and other actions in regard to World House Sparrow Day were perfect Oan without you things would have been very difficult thanks a lot.

ECO-SYS Action Foundation

We would like to thank Christian Pillard, Stella Chan, Philippe Gavotto, Winnie Shum, Mike Garcia (poster) and Julien Soone (website) for their constant support and advice words can't really express how much their help has meant for making the World House Sparrow Day successful without their help and support the World House Sparrow Day would have only been only on paper and in our minds as an idea. Thanks a lot for everything you have done.

Bombay Natural History Society

We would like to sincerely thank to Dr. Asad Rahmani for all his support and guidance I would also like to thank Dr. Nita Shah, Mr. Atul Sathe, CR Naveen, Pinky (Rutika Paradkar), Amrita Neelakantan, Ishtyeaque Ahmad, Rajender Singh and al the staff at BNHS.

Avon Wildlife Trust UK

At Avon Wildlife Trust we would like to Steve Micklewright, Kelly Bray, Ruth Worsley, Alison Logan and Martyn Whitelock at Avon Wildlife Trust, with support from Richard Bland of Bristol Naturalists Society, Ed Drewitt and Helen Hall from Bristol City Council and Mandy Lievers from the Avon Gorge and Downs Project as well as our volunteers and children from St Mary Redcliffe School.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Prof Dickinson, Karen Purcell, Christianne White Project Leader of Celebrate Urban Birds Citizen Science project at Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Diane Tessaglia-Hymes from Graphic Designer and all the staff of Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Delhi Government

We would especially like to thank the Hon. Chief Minister of Delhi Mrs. Shiela Dikshit for agreeing to inaugurate the First World House Sparrow Day without her support and encouragement this would have never ever been possible.

We would also like to thank Shri. Sandeep Mishra (IAS) for extending his support and helping in coordinating the event.

Also special thanks to Shri. Dharmendra IAS, Secretary (Environment), Shri. Pawan Khera. Dr. Anil Kumar, Director (Environment), Dr. BC Sabata, Sr. Scientific Officer, Shri. IH Khan IFS, Additional PCCF, Shri. D M Shukla IFS, CCF, Shri. Prabhat Tyagi IFS, DCF (South), Shri. Rajesh Kumar IFS, DCF (HQ), We would also like to thank all the security personal and other staff present at the Chief Ministers residence who helped us in carrying out the event smoothly.

Ministry of Environment and Forest

Dr.Anmol Kumar, Dr. Y. P. Singh and Prakriti Srivastava

Sparrow Supporters

Ann Favell, A M K Bharos, Abhaya Simha, Ambika,Chandrasekar, Abdulqadir bin Quresh, Amin Qureshi, Aniket B. Dumbare, Avinash Rana, Benita Sen, Betty Remedios, Bram Aarts, Cherry Divecha-Shethia, Deepa Mohan, Dharmendra Kumar Rai, Deniss Summers Smith, Dilip Phadke, Dr. Dhananjay Mohan, Dr. Farida Dahoodwala, Dr. Girish Jathar, Dr. Nammer, Dr.

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Lipu BirdLife Partner Italy

Marco Dinetti, Enrico Selmi, Simona Arletti, Henry Selmi and Daria Dadam

Asian Wildlife Foundation

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Canine Group Association

Vishal G. Thakur, Viral B. Roy and Sunil S. Mali

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Mr. V K Mohan (Chief Conservator of Forest, Teritoral Nashik), Mr. A S Patil (Deputy Conservator of Nashik West Nashik), Arvind Vispute (Deputy Conservator of Nashik East Nashik) and all the staff of Nashik Forest Department

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Karuna International, Junagadh Kendra

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Prakruti Nature Club

Dinesh Goswami, Jignesh Gohilo, Sg Gavae, Niraj Jani, Teachers, Students and all the staff of Jawahar Navuday Vidyalay.

Conservation Partner

Rajputana Society of Natural History, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, Action & Research for Conservation in Humalayas, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Earth Trust, Gurukull School Bangalore and many more.

Zaintechs

We would like to thank our online technical partners Zainul Abedin Abbasi and Zakir Gori for all their support.

We would also like to thank all the individuals and organisations who came forward and celebrated World House Sparrow Day. We have taken utmost care in mentioning the names of all the organisations as well as individuals in but even after all our care we are fully aware that we are unable to include the nameof many individuals and organization about which we have no information and we apologise for the same.

www.worldhousesparrowday.org

Highlights of the World House Sparrow Day

The world House Sparrow Day is an international initiative by Nature Forever Society in collaboration with Bombay Natural History Society, Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) Avon Wildlife Trust (UK) and numerous other national and international organisations across the world.

It was carried out without any financial help or assistance from any Government or Non Governmental agencies.

The World House Sparrow Day has turned into a common mans movement to save House Sparrow which has resulted in people coming down to the streets to celebrate this event.

All the organisations and individuals which celebrated the World House Sparrow Day generated their own funds for the same.

The event was promoted entirely with the help of www.worldhousesparrowday.org website. The World House Sparrow Day, House Sparrow and Nature Forever Society Groups on Social Networking site Facebook were instrumental in spreading the awareness in regard to WHSD

The support and help extended by all section of media helped a lot in promoting the event at National and international level.

Many aims like formation of national and international linkages between organisations to carry out research, advocacy and initiating dialogues were achieved as lot of like minded people have came together due to this initiative.

The celebration of World House Sparrow Day shows the way towards a new way of conservation by people's participation and how much difference it makes by including common man into the conservation movement.

It also shows the concern that people of different age group from different backgrounds have in conservation of House Sparrows and other birds.

Way Forward

With the overwhelming support received in the inaugural year of the World House Sparrow Day the planning for the next year at the World House Sparrow Day Secretariat in Nature Forever Society has already began.

Nature Forever Society plans to come up with a plan to include more organisations for the next year's celebrations.

The lead partners are also brainstorming ideas on how the World House Sparrow Day website can be made more resourceful to facilitate communications between various conservation partners which will help in bringing about meaningful conservation of the species.

The secretariat will also be working to get a sustainable source of funding or sponsors for its activity. The secretariat wants to hire a full time staff which can communicate and coordinate year round with all the stakeholders for forming linkages, facilitate research and communications which will lead to better conservation of the species and habitat.

We at Nature Forever Society aim to bring all the people and individuals working on the conservation of House Sparrows on a common platform.

Also the dream to bring in the common man into the conservation movement is showing positive signs of getting fulfilled.

WORLD HOUSE SPARROW DAY
20th March 2010
www.worldhousesparrowday.org

World House Sparrow Day Website

www.worldhousesparrowday.org

The awareness in regard to the World House Sparrow Day was generated through www.worldhousesparrowday.org.The website was also the nerve centre of the whole event as it helped in disseminating information as well as important resources.

The website helped people in many ways as like ideas on how to celebrate the day and organize various events.

The media section of the website was of great help to media, individuals and organisations as it helped them in downloading high resolutions photos of House Sparrows, logos and the official World House Sparrow Day poster which helped them in creating awareness as well as better planning of the events.

The website also helped individuals, organisations and media to communicate with the World House Sparrow Day secretariat for event updates, conducting interviews as well as getting information on who is celebrating World House Sparrow Day at local level.

News covered by various news papers and their web links were constantly updated on the website.

The Website was the nerve centre of the whole event and helped in many ways in making this event a grand success across the World.

The website also helped people in joining the World House Sparrow Day, House Sparrow and Nature Forever Society groups on social networking site Facebook.

The groups on Facebook helped in better communication between various participating organisations, individuals to have better communication which helped in exchange of ideas.

The World House Sparrow Day website received more than 20,000 hits and was visited by people from more than 35 different countries across the World.

The Official World House Sparrow Day Poster

The World House Sparrow Day poster was developed by ECO-SYS Action Foundation and its creative team.

The poster was designed keeping in mind the theme for the introductory year which was “Help House Sparrows”

The poster was designed to provide individuals and organisations with some material which they can use to create awareness.

The poster was available on the Facebook Group of World House Sparrow Day from which many people downloaded it.

The poster was even e-mailed to individuals and organisations in developer's format in which they could include their logos.

Like most resources provided on the World House Sparrow Day website this was also royalty free and without any copyrights to encourage maximum use of the same.

The poster was widely used by organisations and individuals to celebrate World House Sparrow Day.

Keeping in mind the response we have got in the first year and numerous requests to provide more material to create awareness the WHSD secretariat will be working hard to provide more material like broachers, handouts and posters which can be easily used by individuals and organisations.

Organisers with the official World House Sparrow Day poster outside venue

Role of Media in World House Sparrow Day

The First World House Sparrow Day was celebrated throughout the World without any funding or financial help from any Government, Non- Governmental Organisation or corporate.

In such a scenario spreading a message at a global level becomes a herculean task requiring large man as well financial resources.

The media throughout the world especially in India has played a key role in helping the message to reach to every section of the Society.

The role played by the media in regard to World House Sparrow Day has been that of a key ally without whose help we would have never ever been able to spread the message to such a wide audience.

Media in this particular case has not only limited its roles to give a news it has also helped in creating awareness, educating people, motivating them to join the cause and also supported the World House Sparrow Day.

This not only shows the positive role that media can play in conservation of species and environment but also the commitment, vision and zeal which is present in the media to bring about positive social changes

We at Nature Forever Society had limited resources to spread the awareness in regard to Celebration of World House Sparrow Day.

We would not have been successful in celebrating the Day on such a grand scale without the solid support of media.

We would like to thank all our friends in print and well as other electronic media we are proud to have you as our conservation partners in our endeavor to save House Sparrows.

www.worldhousesparrowday.org

World House Sparrow Day
Inaugural Function
in
New Delhi. India

The World House Sparrow Day was inaugurated at a grand function in New Delhi by Hon. Chief Minister of Delhi Dr. Sheila Dikshit. The event was attained by many officials from Government and Non Governmental organizations, many leading environmentalists, researchers, nature lovers, common man along with a large numbers of students and various sections of media was present for the inaugural function of World House Sparrow Day.

The event started by welcome speech Mohammed Dilawar welcomed the Chief Minister of Delhi and all the other dignitaries present in the event.

Mr. Mohammed Dilawar giving the welcome speech at the inaugural Function of World House Sparrow Day

After the welcome Speech Dr. Rahmani Director of Bombay Natural History Society presented the Hon. Chief Minister of Delhi with a memento. He also expressed his valuable views on the importance of conservation of the common species of birds and the need to regularly monitor them.

Dr. Rahmani presenting Hon. Chief Minister of Delhi with Nest box

Dr. Rahmani expressing his views on World House Sparrow Day and House Sparrow

After Dr. Rahmani's speech Mohammed Dilawar explained in detail the association of House Sparrows with humans, why World House Sparrow Day is being celebrated and the various causes of decline of House Sparrows and how the common man can play an important role in conservation of the same.

He also informed the gathering on how the World House Sparrow Day is being celebrated across the world in more than twenty countries and how the Day got tremendous responses from different parts of the country where it's being celebrated from metros to small villages in India. He also expressed his thanks towards various national and international organisation's who came forward and voluntary celebrated the World House Sparrow Day on such a grand scale. He also thanked the media who supported the event in such a major way the media came forward and helped in creating awareness among the masses as well as among the organisation's.

Mohammed Dilawar addressing the gathering and explain in detail on conservation of House Sparrows and why World House Sparrow Day need to be celebrated.

He requested the Chief Minister of Delhi to have policies and regulations which will make mandatory to plant native plants in all upcoming projects and to provide nesting places for birds.

After the speech Mohammed Dilawar requested the Hon. Chief Minister of Delhi to declare World House Sparrow Day open and express her views on the same.

The Chief Minister highly appreciated the efforts being taken by Nature Forever Society and Bombay Natural History Society for conservation of House Sparrows. She also expressed her concern over the declining numbers of House Sparrows and assured that every effort will be taken to save House Sparrows. She declared that the Delhi Government will initiate a campaign to save House Sparrows in Delhi. She assured that native plants and hedges which are support more wildlife and are friendly to the birds will be planted.

Hon. Chief Minister of Delhi expressing her views after inaugurating the World House Sparrow Day

Interacting with the media after the inauguration of World House Sparrow Day

Dr. Rahmani demonstrating nest box to Hon. Chief Minister of Delhi

Hon. Dignitaries from Various Governmental and Inter Governmental agencies present at the inaugural function.

A collage of the World House Sparrow Day inaugural Function at Delhi Chief Ministers Residence

Highlights of the World House Sparrow Day Inaugural Function

The World House Sparrow Day was inaugurated at a grand function by Hon. Chief Minister of Delhi Dr. Shiela Dikshit at her residence in the presence of leading conservationists, representatives of Government and Non Governmental agencies, students and numerous Sparrow Supporters.

Views on bird conservation and the measures which need to be taken to conserve them were expressed by Dr. Asad Rahmani and Mohammed Dilawar from Bombay Natural History Society.

The Delhi CM after hearing all the details and views expressed by Mr. Mohammed Dilawar informed that the Delhi Government will carry out a campaign to involve common man in saving House Sparrow. She also said that more native hedges which support House Sparrows and other birds will be planted.

The Chief Minister also assured all the support from her Government to Save House Sparrows.

Nest boxes and feeders were installed at the Chief Ministers residence to attract House Sparrows and other birds.

A press conference was organised at the end of the event to inform the press in regard to World House Sparrow Day.

Representatives from leading newspapers and channels were present to cover the event.

WORLD HOUSE SPARROW DAY CELEBRATION ACROSS THE WORLD

Celebrations in UK by Avon Wildlife Trust

City – Bristol, Country - UK

WHSD was celebrated in Bristol by encouraging people to report their house sparrow sightings. Hundreds of people reported their sightings and many wrote blogs about their sparrow experiences and shared their theories about the decline.

Avon Wildlife Trust also organised “Festival of Feather” close to WHSD to encouraged people to build and put up house sparrow terraces.

Talk was given to over 50 people about the plight of house sparrows at Bristol Zoo gardens

Children from St Mary Redcliffe School participated in Festival of Feather on the World House Sparrow Day Celebration organised by Avon Wildlife Trust lead conservation partner in UK.

Children participating in the Festival of Feather in Bristol UK

Avon Wildlife Trust also organised Festival of Feather close to WHSD to encouraged people to build and put up House Sparrow terraces.

20th March 2010
www.worldhousesparrowday.org

House Sparrow Conference by Lipu the BirdLife Partner in Italy

City – Modena, Country - Italy

The organisers in Italy had organized orgnised a conference which was named "*SOS Passeri. Giornata mondiale dei Passeri: indicatori ambientali della qualità urbana*".

The event took place in Modena, Italy the event was attended by the below mentioned esteemed speakers.

Simona Arletti *Assessore all'Ambiente del Comune di Modena* a politician from Modena municipality and Enrico Selmi LIPU volunteers cordinator in Modena gave the introductory speech.

Marco Dinetti Urban ecology officer of LIPU project SOS Passeri LIPU spoke about the general situation of Sparrows in Italy and Europe.

Daria Dadam from Institute of Zoology, London spoke on Sparrows as ecological indicators and their pathologies

Luca Bagni Coordinator of Atlas Project provinces of Modena and Reggio Emilia gave a presentation on distribution and trend of Italian Sparrow and Tree Sparrow at local level.

Giordano Vignoli from University of Modena gave information on the census of Sparrows in the city of Modena

Special guest of the function was Pierandrea Brichetti, Director of CISO Italian Centre for Ornithological Studies.

The conference organisers informed that it was very interesting as there was lot of public participation for event. The conference was not only attended by ornithologists, officers of local administrations, veterinary authorities, but also many **"common" citizens.** This clearly shows that the decline of House Sparrows is something which is of real concern to the common man world over it also shows the common man is interested in saving the House Sparrows and wants to get himself involved in the movement to do so.

The conference was attained by scientists, policy makers and common citizens.

Patna Women's College, ECO Task Force

City – Patna, State – Bihar, Country - India

Patna Women's College has a students' body, ECO Task Force, which works for the cause of environmental conservation and creating awareness. The students of ECO Task Force celebrated World House Sparrow Day by carrying out the following activities.

- They formed a human chain, holding placards and banners
- They distributed 1000+ handbills to the general public.
- They brought and scattered bajra as food for sparrows.
- They pledged to feed birds at home and also provide water to birds.

ECO Task Force members forming human chain on WHSD

गौरैया को बचाओ के लिए लोगों को पंफलेट बांटतीं पटना वीमेंस कॉलेज की छात्राएं। • हिन्दुस्तान

ECO Task Force members distributing handbills

Media cutting's of the World House Sparrow Day celebration in Patna.

दैनिक जागरण
21 मार्च, 2010

छात्राओं का जनसंदेश, गौरैया बचाओ

प्रथम विश्व गौरैया दिवस पर राजधानी में शनिवार को पटना वीमेंस कालेज की छात्राओं ने इस विलुप्त हो रहे पक्षी के बारे में जागरुकता अभियान चलाते हुए पर्यावरण संरक्षण की अलख जगायी। इस दौरान उन्होंने मानव श्रृंखला भी बनाई जहां गौरैया बचाओ को लेकर नारे भी लगाएं गये।

छात्राएं मानव श्रंखला बनाकर सड़कों पर निकली। हाथ में लिए तख्ती में यह संदेश कि गौरैया बच्चों की खास दोस्त है। संदेश में यह भी था कि मोबाइल टावर से निकलने वाली तरंगें गौरैया के अण्डों को नुकसान पहुंचा रही हैं। पूरे विश्व में इससे इनकी आबादी घट रही है। प्राणी विज्ञान में गौरैया पैसटाइन बर्ड की प्रजाति की सदस्य है। जिसकी कई जातियां हैं, पर सबसे जाना पहचाना नाम हाउस स्पैरो का है। विज्ञान भी इसे सोशल बर्ड मानता है, जो मानव के साथ आरंभ से रहती आयी है। इसके गान की सोशल सिंगिंग माना जाता है। अनाज इसके भोजन का मुख्य हिस्सा है। अतः ये गांव-घरों में ही निवास करना पसंद करती हैं। कभी ग्रामीणों से इनके रिश्ते इतने आत्मीय थे कि इनके लिए अनाज छतों में टांग दिया जाता था जिसे गौरैया सामूहिक रूप से खाती थीं। शहर में महिलाएं खाना बनाने से पहले थाली में दाल-चावल बीनने के साथ ही बरामदे, आंगन व छतों पर फेंकती जाती थीं। गौरैया समूह में आकर अनाज चुनती थीं। लेकिन आज के दौर में पेस्टिसाइड के इस्तेमाल, बिजली के तारों के फैलते जाल, माइक्रोवेव, मोबाइल फोन व इसके टावर इस सुशील पक्षी के लिए काल साबित हो रहे हैं। इस कार्यक्रम का संचालन उपाध्यक्ष डा.शाहला यास्मीन और प्राचार्या डोरिस डिसूजा और ज्वाइंट सेक्रेटरी, इको टास्क फोर्स और सिस्टर श्रुति ए.सी. के द्वारा किया गया। शिक्षकों ने छात्रों से भी चिड़ियों को खिलानें और घोसलें बनवाने में मदद करने की अपील की।

सिटी रिपोर्टर

A collage of the extensive media coverage received by World House Sparrow Day in Patna

20th March 2010
www.worldhousesparrowday.org

Celebration of WHSD by Parijatham Trust

City – Chennai, State - Tamil Nadu, Country - India

World House Sparrow Day was celebrated by Parijatham Trust in which more than hundred students from different schools participated.

They were given information in regard to House Sparrow and how they can help in its conservation.

The children also sung House Sparrows songs which were written by poet Bharathiyar.

A drawing competition was arranged in which students sketched House Sparrows and other birds.

Award function at the Parijatham Trust on World House Sparrow Day.

20th March 2010
www.worldhousesparrowday.org

World House Sparrow Day celebrations at Government Middle School, Kothapurinatham, Puducherry

City – Kothapurinatham State - Puducherry, Country -

The World House Sparrow Day was celebrated with much fanfare in the Government Middle School, Kothapurinatham, Puducherry; The Day was celebrated by arranging and a exhibition of clay sparrow dolls which were made by the students under the guidance of schools teacher Thiru. S.Ilamourougane.

They also made different types of nest for the sparrow and gave them to the respective students to be installed in their home to help House Sparrows.

The exhibition was inaugurated by School's Headmaster Thiru.M.Ramadass who also presided the occasion along with school's English Teacher.

Students reciting a House Sparrow poem to celebrate World House Sparrow Day

A collage of celebrations at Government Middle School, Kothapurinatham, Puducherry

An inspirational speech on conservation of House Sparrows was made by A.Karthik who took initiative in celebrating World House Sparrow Day in the school. The programme was arranged by National Green Corps (NGC).

All arrangements to celebrate World House Sparrow Day were made by the coordinator of NGC Thiru.R.Ganapathy.

20th March 2010
www.worldhousesparrowday.org

World Sparrow Day Celebrated By Asian Wildlife Foundation

City – Hyderabad State – Andhra Pradesh, Country - India

The World Sparrow Day was celebrated on March, 20th in the sprawling Sanjeeviah Park, located on the bank of Lake Hussain Sagar. The event was organized by the ASIAN Wildlife Foundation (AWIFO), Hyderabad. In close collaboration with BUDDHA PURNIMA PROJECT (Hyderabad Metro Development Authority) and the Forest Department.

The AWIFO conducted a photo and painting contest on “HOUSE SPARROW” as a theme for the high school students below 16 yrs of age in the state. There was no entry fee and each participant was allowed to send a maximum of four entries in each category.

The response from the students was very encouraging. The entries were scrutinized by a panel consisting of Mr. Ashok Kumar, member, A.P, Wildlife advisory board and A.P Biodiversity board and Mrs. Padmini Patil, a freelance journalist also participated in the event.

Preceded by a nature trail, the event in Sanjeeviah Park commenced with a power point presentation by Mr.Ushodayan on ‘House sparrows life in urban scenario’. Mr. M.J.Akber officer on special duty, BPP welcomed the gathering and appreciated AWIFO for taking up initiative. Mr. Ashok Kumar gave away nest boxes and certificates to the award winners. He also emphasized the need and necessity to motivate the children in bird watching and bird conservation.

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Mr.Ushodayan giving a power point presentation to the students and other participants.

Master pieces created by participants on World House Sparrow Day

Prize distribution to the all the participants

A good number of participants from various walks of life attended the function. There was a wide discussion and exchange of views and ideas on creating awareness about the decline in sparrow population, and the measure to be taken for their protection and conservation. It was decided to form a group to take forward the campaign for protection and conservation of sparrows.

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www.worldhousesparrowday.org

World House Sparrow Day celebration and awareness campaign organized by “KRIYA" in 'Mallam' village High School

City – East Godavari, State – Andhra Pradesh,

Country - India

KRIYA" celebrated World House Sparrow Day by conducting awareness campaign and lectures in which more than 70 students participated. The Programme was organised and conducted by K.Mrutyumjaya Rao a great bird conservationist and other members of the Kriya in 'Mallam' village high school, Dist. East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. K.Mrutyumjaya Rao distributing prizes on the occasion of World House Sparrow Day

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www.worldhousesparrowday.org

Celebrations of World House Sparrow Day in Manjoor Taluka, City – Nilgiris, State – Tamil Nadu, Country - India

One of the most innovative and much talked about event was carried in this small Taluka in the picturesque Nilgiris. Where the school children took out a House Sparrow procession to create awareness in regard to the decline of House Sparrows and what can be done to save them.

The event was organised by The Earth Trust which was attended by the Head Man of the Taluka who came as a Chief Guest for the function.

Awareness campaign was organised for students, villages and representatives from various organisations.

After the session the students and the officials from Earth Trust took out a Sparrow Procession to create awareness in regard to the decline of House Sparrows handbills were distributed to more than 700 people in the village.

There was tremendous interest in regard to this event everywhere and the idea of students coming out to the street to carry forward the message of House Sparrow conservation and create awareness was much appreciated. The local media also covered the event.

The Taluka Head Man addressing the student on occasion of World House Sparrow Day in Manjoor Taluka,

Student along with The Earth Trust Officials took out a House Sparrow procession to create awareness about House Sparrows and its conservation.

www.worldhousesparrowday.org

Media cutting's of the World House Sparrow Day celebration in Manjoor Taluka.

மஞ்சூரில் விழிப்புணர்வு பேரணி

மஞ்சூரில் விழிப்புணர்வு பேரணி

மனிதர்கள் கையில் தான் எல்லை

Local media covered the World House Sparrow Day celebration in Manjoor Taluka, Tamil Nadu

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www.worldhousesparrowday.org

World Sparrow Day Celebrated By Mission Green

City – Panaji State – Goa, Country - India

The World House Sparrow Day was celebrated in Goa by Mission Green. The group organised a common bird watching trip which was well attended by bird and nature lovers from Goa.

Bird and nature lovers from Mission Green celebrated World House Sparrow Day by organising a bird watching trip.

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Members of the Mission Green celebrating World House Sparrow Day in Goa by organising bird watching trip.

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www.worldhousesparrowday.org

World Sparrow Day Celebrated by Chattisgarh Wildlife Society

City – Raipur State – Chattisgarh, Country - India

Mr.A.M.K.Bharos Indian Bird Conservation Network's State Coordinator and leading conservationist from Chattisgarh celebrated World House Sparrow Day by creating awareness among the masses. He interacted with electronic and print media and raised some of the issues which were leading to the decline of House Sparrows in Chhattisgarh.

Major problem and reasons in regard to disappearance of House Sparrows in Bastar region is as mentioned below.

It was put-forth that the tribal in whole of the Bastar are killing SPARROWS in large numbers and eating its flesh as an aphrodisiac. The result is, the sparrows have almost disappeared.

It is clarified that, the tribal have been instigated by somebody who has spread this misconception amongst them, which has resulted in this massacre. The Forest and other government agencies need to get their act together and stop this mindless massacre of House Sparrows.

Role of NGOS / Government bodies in conservation / protection of birds

NGOS and Governmental agencies can play an important role in protection of House Sparrows and other birds as they are in touch with locals at grass root level.

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www.worldhousesparrowday.org

Bhavani Child Development Centre

City – Jaipur, State – Rajashtan, Country - India

The World House Sparrow Day was celebrated with much enthusiasm in Bhavani Child Development Centre which is situated in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

This is a special School for Children with learning disabilities and is special in many ways. The day was celebrated in a unique and interactive way where the school authorities discussed and planed the day and its activities in consultation with the students.

The students conducted number of activities like drawing competitions. They also created awareness by making the visitors to the school aware about House Sparrows.

They created message boards to make people aware about House Sparrows and World House Sparrow Day.

Prakruti Nature Club

City – Junagadh, State – Gujarat, Country - India

Prakruti Nature Club in Junagadh Gujarat celebrated World House Sparrow Day in a grand way by creating awareness among school children. Awareness was created among children by explaining them how they can contribute in conserving House Sparrows and other birds. They also distributed and installed House Sparrow nest boxes made up of cartons to the School children.

A drawing competition was also organised by Prakruti Nature Club in which children participated in large numbers. Trophies were distributed to all the winners of the competition.

A cultural program in which students gave speech and also sang songs on House Sparrows a large number of students as well as citizens attended the functions.

The event was covered by print as well as electronic media. Students as well as the organiser's interacted with the media and briefed them on the efforts taken by them in saving House Sparrows.

Drawing competition and organised by Prakruti Nature Club

Awareness was created in the school students by distributing and installing carton nest boxes among school children.

Grand celebration of World House Sparrow Day in which hundreds of schools children participated

Prize distribution to the students of the House Sparrow drawing competition

Karuna International

City – Junagadh, State – Gujarat, Country - India

Karuna International, Junagadh Kendra Celebrated World House Sparrow Day in Junagadh by carrying out various events to spread awarenesss in regard to conservation of House Sparrows and other birds.

Karuna International celebrated the entire week of World House Sparrow Day by carrying out various events like workshops, debates, drawing and essay competition.

Students were also taught how to identify birds by sight as well as calls. A field trip was also organised to teach them practical skills on how to identify the birds.

A workshop for making nest boxes was organised. Children were made aware of the various birds by showing them a collection of birds photos. They were taught how to identify birds by conducting field trip

They were also explained the importance of feeding birds by a giving them a presentation on the same. An easy competition with the theme of “Importance of Bird” and “Our flying friends” was conducted in which the students expressed their views.

A debate was organised on “Environment and Birds” and a drawing competition with the theme “My loving Bird friend”.

The events conducted by Karuna International has helped in not only creating awareness but has also helped the children with a better understanding of the birds and how they can help the birds in a better way.

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www.worldhousesparrowday.org

Rangubai Junnare English Medium School

City – Nashik, State – Maharashtra, Country - India

The students of Rangubai Junnare English Medium School celebrated World House Sparrow Day by installing Nest boxes and feeders for House Sparrows in their school campus. A drawing competition was conducted for Senior KG students were the children created the below masterpieces.

The event was arranged by the school management and teachers.

A collage of the masterpieces created by Senior KG students

Canine Group Association

City – Vadodara, State – Gujarat, Country - India

The Canine Group Association in Vadodara successful celebrate World House Sparrow Day on 20th March 2010.

The distributed nest boxes and carried out awareness campaigns in different parts of the city targeting various section of the society. The nest boxes were installed in various places and at the time of making this report many nest boxes were also adopted by House Sparrows.
The Canine group plans to carry this activity throughout the year.

Member of Canine Group distributing nest boxes to the citizens of Vadodara

Press Coverage

BIRD WATCH

A voice for the sparrow

March 20 is World House Sparrow Day. The species is fast disappearing, but thanks to the efforts of environmentalist Mohammed Dilawar there is hope for the inconspicuous bird. Excerpts from an interview ...

RAMA DEVI MENON

SAVING THE COMMON WILD : *Mohammad Dilawar.*

ONCE UBIQUITOUS : *The house sparrow has almost disappeared.*

The diminutive house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), whose nests dotted almost every house in the neighbourhood as well as public places like bus bays and railway stations, where they lived in colonies and survived on foodgrains and tiny worms, is now a disappearing species. A three-year project initiated by the Indian Ministry for Environment and Forest to help save the sparrows in India is being managed in conjunction with the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). The environmentalist Mohammed E. Dilawar of the BNHS will head the project. Dilawar has been working for the cause of sparrow conservation for more than five years. In 2008, *Time* recognized him as a "hero" of the environment. He also started the Nature Forever Society and is encouraging like-minded people to join his movement. Excerpts from a conversation...

Tell us about the award you recently received.

I felt really overwhelmed after receiving the award. I felt extremely proud that an Indian was featured for such a prestigious award. The award also helped tremendously in bringing to light the plight of the house sparrow, which is such an ignored species

Is the sparrow's urban habitat responsible for its decline? Would it have been safer if it confined itself to the wilderness?

You won't find sparrows in jungles, deserts or places where humans are not present. The sparrow is a species that has evolved with humans and is always found in and around human habitations.

It's not the urban habitat but the modification in architecture, the pollution caused by microwave towers; the excessive use of pesticides, a gradual decrease in nesting sites, food sources and the replacement of native plants by exotic varieties, which are to be blamed.

Do sparrows, which are fiercely independent, lay eggs in the nests provided by us?

Since they have always been in and around humans, a nest box provided to them is willingly accepted by them. As the nest boxes replicate their natural nesting site it doesn't change its natural behaviour in any way.

Are sparrows an ignored species because the government spends a lot of money on saving other wild animals?

This attitude towards conservation has to be changed. It's still a myth that only what is in the forests have to be considered for conservation. The layman doesn't even think that common birds like house sparrows, mynas or even squirrels are wild and also need to be conserved. These animals are also protected by the Wildlife Act of India.

This attitude is also within the scientific community ; in India there is very little research done on the common birds.

How long have you been involved in the conservation of sparrows? How do you go about it?

I have been involved with the conservation of house sparrows for more than five years now. Till the time of the *Time* award and funding from the MOEF, which came after that, it was a personal struggle. Funds were and are still a major problem as far as the conservation of common species like house sparrows is concerned.

It is extremely fulfilling to save house sparrows and the rewards come in when people call you to tell that you that the nest boxes have been adopted by sparrows or their children are happy to see them feeding from the feeders.

What prompted you to seriously consider sparrow conservation? Do you also focus on other birds/animals?

I started working on house sparrows about five years back after reading a research paper from the UK in which the decline of house sparrows was reported. I immediately noticed that same was the case in India. So I started searching for scientific papers and reports. I was baffled with the outcome since there was practically no research done on the decline of house sparrows in India. There was no data on the status of common birds in India. House sparrows being a common bird were not considered important from the scientific point of view.

I was upset with this lack of scientific aptitude and decided that I will work for the house sparrows in India.

But as far as advocacy or conservation issues for other birds and animals is considered, I speak for all of them in a single voice. I want house sparrows to be considered as an umbrella species under which all common birds and animals species are conserved the same way as a tiger is to the forest.

Did you start the Nature Forever Society?

Yes, I have started the Nature Forever Society because I wanted an organisation which will work for the conservation of house sparrows, common biodiversity and which believes that every single species has an equal right on planet earth.

Nature Forever Society is a very small organisation but the goals are not small in any way. It's very difficult for us to run the society because we do not have any institutional support. So we try to raise our own funds by selling the nest boxes and feeders on a no-loss-no-profit basis.

This gives us the freedom to do the work in which we believe in.

(For information on events for World House Sparrow day, log onto www.worldhousesparrowday.org)

THE HINDU
YOUNG WORLD
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010 · THE COMPLETE NEWSPAPER FOR CHILDREN

Test your grey cells : 3
Fun games and puzzles : 7

Song of the sparrow

"A little bird, with plumage brown, / Beside my window flutters down,/ A moment chirps its little strain,/ Then taps upon my window-pane,/ And chirps again, and hops along,/ To call my notice to its song;" said Paul Laurence Dunbar in his poem titled **The Sparrow**.

March 20 is World House Sparrow Day. Try to find out something about these little feathered friends and see how you can protect them.

For full story see page 2

Song of the sparrows

March 20 is World House Sparrow Day. Once commonly sighted, these little chirpy birds are fast disappearing. Have you seen a sparrow lately?

ROHINI RAMAKRISHNAN

Small, plump and cheeky, this dinky bird has firmly decided to live with humans. But recently their non-appearance in localities where they ruled the roost, is worrying. Whom are we talking about? Certainly not about a flamboyant or an exotic bird. But a rather drab brown and grey creature who has befriended us humans with its chirps and cute little ways and is so much a part of our life. As Birdman Theodore Baskaran describes them, they are one species that closely follow man, like the crow. "They are our co-tenants," he says.

This little bird could be quite a bully and is known for taking over nests of other birds, and turfing out older "tenants". But both the male and female take care of their young, unlike other species, for instance among peacocks only the female takes care of its chicks.

Many reasons are given for their apparent "disappearance". The introduction of unleaded petrol is one, as the combustion of which produces compounds methyl nitrite, which is highly toxic for small insects that forms a part of a chick's diet.

Old houses had eaves and tiles that were comfortable perches to build nests on. External wirings and framed pictures too were "habitats". But sleek modern buildings no longer have these and so we have lost these "feathered neighbours".

As supermarkets mushroom in urban areas, the old fashioned grain shops are disappearing. It was once a common sight to see flocks of sparrows feasting on the grain in the gunny sacks displayed in front of these shops or on the spilt grain.

Urbanisation has done away with home gardens, which had worms and insects for the young sparrows. But pesticides have proved lethal for their survival. The most recent reason for their disappearance is the mobile phone towers. The waves from the tower are capable of destroying the life in the eggs. Thereby they are incapable of hatching.

Immortalised

Folk art of the tribals such as the Sauras (They are mentioned as 'Savaras' in *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*) has incorporated these little birds in their paintings which decorate the walls of their homes with. Paintings on religious and ceremonial themes adorn them with motifs of flowers, birds, trees and numerous geometrical shapes and designs. The minute details of the paintings also reflect the day-to-day lives of the Sauras. This art-form is mostly found in the Rayagada, Gajapati and Koraput districts of Orissa.

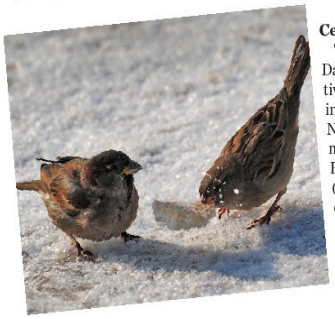
The Warli tribes in Maharashtra (The origin of this tribe goes back to Neolithic period between 2500 BC and 3000 BC) too depict them in their paintings. Whenever a wedding or birth ceremony takes place in the tribe, they celebrate it by adorning their houses with designs. During the harvest, paintings and designs on the walls are painted as a way of celebration.

Many folk songs too celebrate the little bird and the literary work "The Tolkâppiyam" a work on the grammar of the Tamil language, and the earliest extant work of Tamil literature has incorporated it.

In more contemporary times, Subramanya Bharathi has written a famous poem about sparrows being the symbol of freedom. The Hindi author Mahadevi Verma's Story *Goraiya* — makes one wish that the sparrow would return to enrich our urban lives once more.

Known by many names

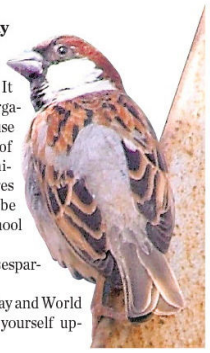
The House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is a species of *passerine* bird in the sparrow family *Passeridae*. In India, it is popularly known as *goraiya* in the Hindi speaking districts. In Tamil Nadu and Kerala it is known as *kuruvi*. In Telugu it is known as the *pichhuka*, and in Kannada, *gubbachchi*. The Gujaratis call it *chakli* whereas the Maharashtrians call it *chimani*. It is known as *chiri* in Punjab, *chaer* in Jammu and Kashmir, *Charai Pakhi* in West Bengal, and *gharachatia* in Orissa. In Urdu it is called *chirya* while in Sindhi, it is known as *jhirki*.



Celebrate

The World House Sparrow Day is an international initiative by Nature Forever Society in collaboration with Bombay Natural History Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (USA), Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) Avon Wildlife Trust (UK) and numerous other national and international organisations across the world. The World House Sparrow Day will be celebrated on March 20, 2010. Check out: www.worldhousesparrowday.org

What will the World House Sparrow Day achieve?



This event will celebrate the House Sparrows and also birds and biodiversity found around us. It will also bring together all the individuals and organisations working on the conservation of House Sparrows and urban biodiversity. The attention of government agencies and the scientific community on the whole for more conservation measures and research on the common bird species will be focused. You can celebrate this day in your school and locality.

You can write about it to :info@worldhousesparrowday.org

You can also join the World House Sparrow Day and World House Sparrow Group on Facebook to keep yourself updated.

What you can do

Sprinkle grain on the verandah/terrace of your house.

If you have even a little space around your house, try to make a home/kitchen garden.

Feed platforms might help the welcome birds back.

Clean water can be kept.

Pots with straw can be hung as nesting sites.

Lead environmentally healthy lives so that birds too can survive.

Say no to pesticides in your homes. Use organic repellents.

Save the house sparrow

Prerna Singh Bindra

Boisterous, perky, pesky house sparrows, once a common sight, are now rapidly disappearing, not only in India but worldwide. Rapid urbanisation has contributed to the decline in the house sparrow's population. But the trend can be reversed if we are more caring

Most of us would remember a time when sparrows were part of our everyday life — there were so many of them that their presence bordered on being irksome. They chattered incessantly; they made our homes theirs — hunting for nooks and corners where they could set up house. Determined little creatures they were too, for once they made up their mind to take up residence nothing could dissuade them.

An upside-down lamp shade in our dining room was a particular favourite, as was the crevice behind a painting. They were up before dawn and no sooner had we thrown the door open, they would rush in,indignant at being denied right of passage and in a major hurry to begin the day's work.

Their energy was tiresome to behold. As the day wore on, the busy little pair did not let up, flying to and fro carrying straw, grass and such other necessities that go into making the prefect sparrow home. Their beaks would be overloaded — one could have fed a horse and kept him happy on the amount they carried — and most of it would tumble out and mess the floor.

We would make half-hearted attempts to get rid of the nests, but we could never quite do it. Their distress calls, when they saw their home had been swept clean, would melt our hearts, as did their fierce determination. For no sooner had we removed the nest, they would be back at it again with renewed energy.

The problem was the heat. If the birds were in, the ceiling fan was out. Ceiling fans are murderous predators and can cruelly cut the flight of these diminutive birds. It happened once when a noisy creature, flying exuberantly across the room to meet another equally voluble mate, was brutally chopped in two. It was a grisly sight with blood spattered on the floor and the wall. Worse, the bewildered mate circled over the still body, chirping plaintively.

That was it. After this tragedy, a new law prevailed at our home: Fans were not to be switched on under any circumstances, whatever the provocation, no matter how high the mercury shot up. Defeated, we suffered the heat and the sparrows were given the right of way, albeit amid much grumbling.

I do not know when they disappeared, but suddenly the fans ran from spring through summer, the floor sparkled unlittered with bits of grass and other more messy, icky stuff, and the air was devoid of cheery bird calls. We missed them.

Later, much later, I was to realise that the 'common' house sparrow hadn't done the vanishing act just at our home, it was a worldwide phenomenon. Studies in the UK have shown that the house sparrow population has declined by more than 65 per cent, and the same trend has been observed in India. In fact, an ornithological survey conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has confirmed that the sparrow population in Andhra Pradesh has dropped by 80 per cent; in Gujarat and Rajasthan, it has declined by 20 per cent.

Who would have ever thought that the tribe of the boisterous, perky, pesky house sparrow, once a common sight, is now on the decline? How come we never noticed? Or cared? How could we let this bird, so much a part of our lives, vanish forever?

There are many reasons attributed to the decline: Sprawling bungalows with their nooks and crannies have given way to high rises and malls; instead of hedges, good dining spot and ideal for roosting, we now have wrought iron or barbed wire fences; there are no messy shrubs and bushes in gardens, just manicured lawns with exotic plants sprayed and covered with poisonous pesticide that does the bird or anyone else little good. Other theories indicate that electromagnetic contamination from cellphone towers can be lethal for sparrows while unleaded petrol and pesticide kill insects on which baby sparrows are raised.

Help to the once ubiquitous bird now comes from one Nasik-based Mohammed Dilawar, who has taken up the sparrow's cause rather than wait for the Government to wake up from its slumber. "The sparrow," says Dilawar, "is to urban ecosystems what the canary was to mines.That it is dying out means our cities are in trouble". He has decided to help this hardy little creature, besides studying the sparrow, increasing awareness, working with builders to provide for more bird-friendly colonies. He has been making and selling wooden nest boxes on a non-profit basis.

As for my home, the birds are back again. With a little help of course. We have provided for a good dining table with birdseed, broken rice, etc, and water for a bird bath. There are provisions for a sauna too; a mud bath where an entire flock wallows in the dust and generally brings the house down with the din.

The best part is the fans run too. Thanks to the nest boxes, lined with some straw, the birds have changed address. That awful cranny behind the painting was pokey, they prefer their swanky new living quarters where board and lodging are free.

On Saturday, March 20, World House Sparrow Day, take the plunge and help save the sparrow from vanishing from our world.

20th March 2010
www.worldhousesparrowday.org

www.natureforever.org

૨૦મી માર્ચે ઊજવાશે 'વિશ્વ ચકલી દિવસ'

લુપ્ત થતી ચકલીઓને બચાવવા પહેલ

મુંબઈ, તા. ૨ : શહેરીકરણને લીધે લુપ્ત થઈ રહેલી ચકલીઓને બચાવવા માટે ૨૦ માર્ચથી પ્રથમ વાર 'વિશ્વ ચકલી દિવસ'નું આયોજન કરાયું છે. એ માટે પક્ષીપ્રેમીઓએ તૈયારી શરૂ કરી દીધી છે.

નેચર ફોરેવર સોસાયટી તરફથી બૉમ્બે નેચરલ હિસ્ટ્રી સોસાયટી, કોરનેલ લૅબ ઑફ ઑર્નિથોલૉજી (યુએસએ), ઈકો સિસ્ટમ ઍક્શન ફાઉન્ડેશન (ફ્રાંસ) અને એવોન વાઈલ્ડ લાઈફ ટ્રસ્ટ (યુકે) સહિત દુનિયાભરનાં પર્યાવરણ અને પક્ષી સંગઠનો આ આયોજનમાં સહભાગી બનવાનાં છે. આ દિવસ માટે 'ચકલીની મદદ કરો' એ મુખ્ય થીમ રાખવામાં આવી છે. 'પ્રથમ વિશ્વ ચકલી દિવસ'નું ઉદ્ઘાટન દિલ્હી ખાતે દિલ્હીનાં મુખ્ય પ્રધાન શીલા દીક્ષિત દ્વારા કરવામાં આવનાર છે.

આ ઉપરાંત વિવિધ પક્ષીપ્રેમીઓ આ દિવસને પક્ષી દર્શન, બર્ડ રૅલી, આર્ટ કૉમ્પિટિશન, ડિબેટ જેવા જનજાગૃતિના આયોજન દ્વારા ઊજવવાના છે. બૉમ્બે નેચરલ હિસ્ટ્રી સોસાયટીના પક્ષી વિશેષજ્ઞ મહોમ્મદ દિલાવરે આ દિવસને અનુલક્ષીને www.worldhouse Sparrowday.org નામની વેબસાઈટ પણ બનાવી છે, જેના પરથી આ દિવસની વિશેષ ઉજવણીની વિગતો શામિલ કરાઈ છે તેમજ લોકોને આ દિવસને પોતાની આગવી સ્ટાઈલથી ઉજવવાની અપીલ કરાઈ છે. વેબસાઈટ પર પોતાનું નામ અને આ દિવસની ઉજવણી માટે વ્યક્તિગત તૈયારીને તેઓ વેબસાઈટ પર રજિસ્ટર કરી શકાશે, જેને વેબસાઈટના માધ્યમે આખું વિશ્વ જોઈ શકશે.

આ સંદર્ભે દિલાવરે જણાવ્યું હતું કે, શહેરીકરણની લહાયમાં 'ચકલી' નામનું નાનકડું પક્ષી પ્રાયઃ લુપ્ત થવાની આરે છે ત્યારે સાર્વત્રિક ધોરણે લોકો પક્ષીની સુરક્ષા અંગે જાગૃતિ કેળવે એ જરૂરી છે. અત્યારે બની રહેલી ઈમારતોની ડિઝાઈનો ચકલી માળો બાંધી શકે એવી રીતે તૈયાર થાય. અત્યારે માચીસની ડબ્બી જેવી બિલ્ડિંગોની રચના હોય છે, જ્યાં ચકલી બેસી શકે કે પોતાનો માળો બાંધી શકે એવી જગ્યા હોતી નથી. શહેરમાં બગીચા ઓછા છે અને ગણ્યાગાંઠ્યા બગીચામાં આકર્ષક દેખાવવાળા નાના-નાના છોડવા રોપાય છે, જેમાં ચિક્કાર પ્રમાણમાં જંતુનાશક દવાનો છંટકાવ થાય છે, જેથી ત્યાં પણ ચકલીઓને કોઈ આશરો મળતો નથી. બીજી તરફ ચકલીઓને ચણ મળવાનું બંધ થઈ ગયું છે.

એક જમાનામાં આંગણામાં અનાજ વીણવાની પદ્ધતિથી ચકલીઓને આહારની ચિંતા રહેતી નહોતી, પરંતુ હવે તો 'રેડી ટુ ઈટ'નો જમાનો આવ્યો છે. વિણેલું અનાજ અથવા તો તૈયાર દળેલો લોટ જ ઘરમાં આવે છે. ઉપરાંત વધુ પડતા મોબાઈલ ફોનના ઉપયોગથી વાતાવરણમાં સંચાર થતાં કિરણોત્સર્ગથી પણ ચકલીઓને અકલ્પનીય હાનિ પહોંચી રહી છે. આ બધી બાબતોથી અમારે લોકોને, સરકારને વાકેફ કરવા છે એટલે જ આ વિશેષ દિવસની ઉજવણી કરવાનું આયોજન થયું છે. અમને વિશ્વાસ છે કે આ પ્રથમ પ્રયાસમાં દરેક પ્રકૃતિપ્રેમીઓનો સહયોગ અમને મળશે.''

www.worldhousesparrowday.org

चिऊताईला वाचवण्यासाठी २० मार्चला 'वर्ल्ड हाऊस स्पॅरो डे'

❖ तुषार अहिरे

एकेकाळी नव्हे तर काही वर्षांपूर्वीच घरातील किचनच्या खिडकीजवळ चिऊताई दाणा टिपण्यासाठी यायची. कुठे गेली ही चिऊताई? वाढत्या प्रदूषणामुळे ती कुठे हरवून तर गेली नाही ना? गेल्या काही वर्षांपासून चिमण्यांचा चिवचिवाट कमी झाला आहे. पक्षी निरीक्षकांच्या नजरेत ही बाब केव्हाच ध्यानी आली आहे. आता चिऊताईच्या संवर्धनासाठी एक लहानसे पाऊल येत्या २० मार्चला उचलण्यात येणार आहे. पहिला 'वर्ल्ड हाऊस स्पॅरो डे' साजरा करण्यासाठी पर्यावरणवादी संघटनांनी कंबर कसली आहे.

घराबाहेर भुर्ररपणे उडणाऱ्या चिमण्या दिसतात पण त्यांची संख्या कमी झालेली आहे, त्यात शंका नाही. पण चिमण्यांची गणना आतापर्यंत झालेली नसल्याने कुठलाही अभ्यासक ठामपणे ते सांगू शकत नाही. काही वर्षांपूर्वी मुंबईतील चिमण्यांची संख्या वाढवण्यासाठी तरुणांनी कृत्रिम घरट्यांचा पर्याय समोर आणला. पण त्याला फारसा प्रतिसाद मिळाला नाही. आता चिमण्यांच्या घटत्या संख्येचा प्रश्न जागतिक पातळीवर नेण्यासाठी नेचर फॉरएव्हर सोसायटीने पुढाकार घेतला असून त्यांच्या सोबत बॉम्बे नॅचरल हिस्ट्री सोसायटी, अमेरिकेतील कॉर्नेल लॅब ऑफ आर्थिनॉलॉजीसह इतर संघटना बरोबर आल्या आहेत. चिमण्यांवर विशेष अभ्यास असलेल्या डॉ. मोहम्मद दिलावर यांचाही त्यात विशेष सहभाग आहे.

जागतिक स्तरावर पहिल्यांदाच चिमण्यांच्या प्रश्नांवर ही मोहीम राबवण्यात येत आहे. पहिल्या वर्षाची थीम 'हेल्प हाऊस स्पॅरो...' असून दरवर्षी तो न चुकता होणार आहे. विशेष म्हणजे, या आगळ्या-वेगळ्या मोहिमेत कुणीही सहभागी होऊ शकते. आपल्या परिसरातील चिमण्यांसह इतर सहजपणे आढळून येणाऱ्या पक्ष्यांचे निरीक्षण, चर्चासत्र, प्रदर्शन, स्पर्धा आदी २० मार्चला होणार आहे. या सर्व कार्यक्रमातून आपल्या परिसरातील पक्ष्यांच्या संवर्धनाकडे लक्ष वेधून घेणे, हे आहे. www.worldhousesparrowday.org ही वेबसाइट या सगळ्या मोहिमेची मध्यवर्ती भूमिका बजावणार आहे. या मोहिमेच्या अधिक माहितीसाठी info@worldhousesparrowday.org वर ई-मेल पाठवा तसेच 'वर्ल्ड हाऊस स्पॅरो डे' साजरा करण्यासाठी register@worldhousesparrowday.org ई-मेल पाठवा किंवा वेबसाइटला भेट द्या. चिमण्यांच्या संवर्धनासाठी केवळ एक हा दिवस साजरा करून काही साध्य होणार नाही, हे संयोजक जाणून आहेत पण या मोहिमेतून जगाच्या कानाकोपऱ्यातून चिमणी तसेच इतर पक्ष्यांच्या संवर्धनासाठी काम करणारे ग्रुप एकत्र येतील, यावर संयोजकांचे मत आहे. २० मार्चला सहभागी होणाऱ्यांना नेचर फॉरएव्हर सोसायटीकडून मार्गदर्शन मिळणार आहेच. शिवाय वेबसाइटवर चिमण्यांच्या संवर्धनासाठी केलेल्या मोहिमेचे फोटो तसेच लेख डाऊनलोड करण्यात येणार आहेत. तेव्हा चिऊताईला वाचवण्यासाठी तुम्ही येताय ना? संपर्क- डॉ. मोहम्मद दिलावर- ९४२०००१८२०/ ९८९००८७९८८.

INITIATIVE

World Sparrow Day to be observed March 20

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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Mumbai: With the constant decline of sparrows, several wildlife and nature organisations have teamed up to observe on World House Sparrow Day on March 20, one of the first initiative to save the sparrows.

The World House Sparrow Day is an international initiative by Nature Forever Society in colabration with Bombay Natural History Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (USA), Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) Avon Wildlife Trust (UK) and numerous other national and international organisation across the world.

The event will be promoted by a dedicated interactive website www.worldhousesparrowday.org which will be the nervecentre of the whole event.

The World House Sparrow Day will promote events like common bird watching trips, public discussions, exhibitions, presentations, bird rallies, art competitions, educational and public events all aimed at paying more attention to the birds in their neighborhood and their conservation.

■ The central theme for the introductory year of World House Sparrow Day will be - " Help House Sparrows" - which aims to highlight reasons for decline like lack of nesting sites, food, effects of pesticides

"The rationale of having this day is not only to celebrate the event for a day but to use the day to bring together all the individuals and organisation working on the conservation of House Sparrows and urban biodiversity on a common platform. With the help of the website we aim to build a network which can result in better linkages of like minded people. In the long term it's an effective way to carry out advocacy, do collaborative research and form national and international linkages," says Dilawar Mohammed, who has done extensive research on sparrows in India.

www.worldhousesparrowday.org

पीपुल्स समाचार

खुला ख

कहां गई गौरैया

पर्यावरण की शिकार

शहरों से गौरैया का दूर चले जाना अपने आप में चिन्ता का विषय है। यह समस्या केवल हमारे प्रदेश या देश की ही नही है, बल्कि समूचे विश्व की है।

घर के आंगन में दाने चुगती गौरैया आज दूर-दूर तक कहीं नजर नहीं आती। विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि इसके लिए बदलती पर्यावरणीय स्थितियां, पक्के मकानों का बनना और फसलों में कीटनाशक दवाओं का बहुतायत से छिड़काव जिम्मेदार है। घरेलू चिड़िया गौरैया की सबसे बड़ी खासियत यह है कि वह मनुष्य के साथ-साथ ही अपना जीवन बिताती है। दूर जंगल में जाकर वह नहीं रह सकती। यही कारण है कि पुराने घरों में गौरैया का घोंसला पाया ही जाता था। आदमी अब जिस पक्के और वातानुकूलित मकान में रह रहा है, वहां पर गौरैया के लिए कोई जगह ही नहीं है। शहरों से गौरैया का दूर चले जाना अपने आप में चिन्ता का विषय है। यह समस्या केवल हमारे प्रदेश या देश की ही नहीं है, बल्कि समूचे विश्व की है। वाइल्ड लाइफ इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ देहरादून ने घरेलू चिड़िया गौरैया के अचानक कमी होने से चिंतित होकर इस बात में पता लगाने के लिए शोध भी किया। डॉ. ऑलिवर ऑस्टिन ने अपनी किताब बर्ड्स ऑफ द वर्ल्ड में भी पक्षियों की दशा का जिक्र किया है। जानकारी के अनुसार आज से 2,50,000 वर्ष पहले प्लाइस्टोसीन युग में पक्षियों की 11,500 हजार प्रजातियां मौजूद थी, जिनकी संख्या घटकर अब सिर्फ 9 हजार बची है। अंदेशा है कि 600 सालों में 100 विशेष प्रजातियां भी खत्म हो जाएंगी। वर्तमान समय की बात करें तो 1000 प्रजातियां खत्म होने की कगार पर हैं। चील और गिद्धों का उदाहरण हमारे सामने है कि कितनी तेजी से उनकी संख्या में गिरावट आई है। अपने आस-पास के वातावरण में जीने वाले जीव-जंतुओं खत्मकरा हम किस विकास यात्रा की बात कर रहे हैं। पक्षी विशेषज्ञ डॉ. सालिम अली ने भी गौरैया को लेकर खूब काम किया। वर्तमान समय में सरकार की ओर से तो पक्षियों को बचाने के लिए कोई सकारात्मक प्रयास नहीं किए जा रहे हैं, लेकिन स्वयं सेवी संगठन निजी तौर पर कुछ प्रयास अवश्य कर रहे हैं। भोपाल बिल्डर्स एसोसिएशन के मोहम्मद खालिक और संगीता राजगोर भी गौरैया जैसे पक्षियों को बचाने प्रयास में लगे हुए हैं। इसके साथ ही पर्यावरण प्रेमी मोहम्मद दिलावर भी निजी प्रयासों से गौरैया समेत अन्य पक्षियों को सुरक्षित वातावरण और जीवन देने के लिए प्रयासरत हैं। इसके लिए निजी तौर पर कृत्रिम घोंसले बनाकर बेच रहे हैं। लोगों से गुजारिश भी कर रहे हैं कि इनको घरों में टांगें और घरेलू पक्षियों को घर में बसेरा करने का न्योता दें। मोहम्मद दिलावर का कहना है कि गौरैया सरीखे पक्षियों का भी वाइल्ड लाइफ कन्जर्वेशन एक्ट के तहत संरक्षण करना चाहिए। इस पर काम करने के लिए बॉम्बे नेचुरल हिस्ट्री सोसाइटी (बीएनएचएस) सरीखी संस्थाएं भी आगे आ सकती हैं।

गौरैया समेत अन्य पक्षियों की संख्या में भी कमी आ रही है। इसके सबसे बड़ा कारण है कीटनाशक दवाओं का प्रयोग। गौरैया अनाज के दाने खाती है। इन कीटनाशकों की वजह से अंडे से बच्चे नहीं तैयार हो पाते हैं। हेचिंग के समय जब चिड़िया अंडे पर बैठती है तो अंडा हेच हुए बगैर ही टूट जाता है। यह भी एक प्रमुख कारण है।

ज्ञानेश शुक्ला, पर्यावरण विशेषज्ञ

अंकिता सिंघई
भोपाल

News 360°

Sparrows Screech For Attention: World House Sparrow Day on 20 March

Photo courtesy:Saurabh Desai

If there is one bird you can remember from your childhood, it would probably be the House Sparrow. Since it lives in close proximity with humans, the House Sparrow is, for most of us, the first bird we learn to identify. Till not very long ago, the House Sparrow was one of the most abundant and common birds in the world. But their numbers are declining across the world. The reasons? Certainly, there is no one momentous reason for the decline of House Sparrow but a slew of causes. Its slow but noticeable disappearance has been labeled as one of the biggest mysteries of recent times.

Beginning this year, 20th March 2010 will be celebrated as the World House Sparrow Day worldwide to raise awareness about the decline of the House Sparrow and throw light on the problems faced by the House Sparrow in its daily fight for survival.

What can I do?

Small steps taken by each of us can go a long way in saving this vivacious bird. All we need to do is put a bowl of grains and a bowl of water to help these birds survive. The water should be changed regularly else the sparrows can fall ill and it can become a mosquito breeding centre too. One should avoid using pesticides and chemical fertilizers in gardens as they kill the aphids and caterpillars which the sparrows feed to their babies.

Ref: www.worldhousesparrowday.org .

20th March 2010
www.worldhousesparrowday.org

12 TOI DELHI - 19 March 10

This Saturday, spare a thought for the sparrow

Special Day To Focus On Their Survival

Neha Lalchandani | TNN

New Delhi: The tiny house sparrow, earlier commonly found in every nook and corner of the city, seems to be fighting a losing battle for survival. The capital, along with several other cities across the world, has recorded a dwindling population of the bird, finally leading to some belated, but much needed attention from the government. On March 20, Delhi will be celebrating World House Sparrow Day, a first of its kind event that will try and address the problem and look for solutions.

Sanjay Hadkar

DWINDLING NUMBERS

Organized by the Nature Forever Society in collaboration with the Bombay Natural History Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ecosystem Foundation of France, Avon Wildlife Trust of UK and several other organizations, the event will focus specifically on how to revive the numbers of house sparrows in the city.

Dr Surya Prakash of JNU explained, that while European countries have well-documented records on the decline of sparrow density, in India, there were no such records, documents and regular monitoring of the bird. "This is because we took this little creature for granted. In last two-and-half decades, sparrows have dwindled drastically world wide by as much as 50%, including a major decline in UK which is 65%," he said.

According to an ICAR India study, house sparrows have declined by 80% in Andhra Pradesh, 70-80% in coastal areas, Gujrat and Rajasthan and 20% in Kerela. Dr Neeraj Khera, programme coordinator with InWEnt, carried out a study on house sparrows in Delhi between June and August 2007 while she was working with TERI. While accepting that the duration was not a sufficient period to say anything concrete, she did find that sparrow density was the least in the highly urbanized central Delhi.

"In 2006, the dominant species of birds in Delhi were house sparrow, house crow, rock pigeon and the common myna. By 2008, all these had been sidelined by the rock pigeon. The changing urban environment is responsible for this. The sparrows and pigeons were in competition for nesting space and the smaller bird was obviously beaten. Human intervention is also a problem since the pigeons are thriving on food scattered by humans," said Khera.

Khera also highlighted that the chicks of sparrows needed a high protein diet of insects but these were in short supply due to a diminishing green cover in the city. "Native grasses and shrubs have all but disappeared. While sparrows breed once a year, pigeons can breed as much as six times a year and can survive entirely on grains," she said.

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SUNDAY HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI
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quotemartial

Ye pyari si chidiya ko hame phir se wapis laana hai ... (We need to bring back the cute sparrow)

SHEILA DIKSHIT,
On the occasion of the world's first house sparrow day.

Chief Minister wants sparrows to return to city

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: On the occasion of the first 'World House Sparrow Day' on Saturday, Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit said her government would start a campaign to inform people on the decline of the sparrow population in the capital.

"Ye pyari si chidiya ko hame phir se wapas laana hai ... (We need to ensure this cute bird returns)," Sheila said.

"Increasing urbanisation has led to the decline of house sparrows. We will start a campaign in Delhi and go about it in a very aggressive way to make people aware of why this is happening," Dikshit said during a programme to mark the day at her official residence.

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), a body in the field of documenting and conserving natural heritage, along with its partner international NGOs, had organised the event to highlight the reasons behind the decline in the number of sparrows, especially in urban areas.

Dikshit at the function held at her residence on Saturday.
RAJ K RAJ / HT PHOTO

The reasons include lack of nesting sites, food, effect of pesticides and microwave pollution.

BNHS Director Dr Asad Rehman said it is important to save a species "when it is still common and not when it is on the brink of extinction".

Rehman also suggested a study on the impact of pesticides on birds in India.

Mohammad Dilawar, in-charge of BNHS's project on sparrows under the aegis of Ministry of Environment and Forests, said sparrows have been human companion for the last 10,000 years.

CM Sheila Dikshit inaugurates a function on the occasion of World House Sparrow Day at her residence on Saturday. PTI

CM supports cause: Bring the sparrows back to my garden

Mohammed Ilyas

THEY CHIRP NO MORE: Sheila Dikshit makes a pitch for tackling the problem of the dwindling number of sparrows in the city

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www.worldhousesparrowday.org