



PUDUCHERRY EIACP HUB

(Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme)

Host Centre : Puducherry Pollution Control Committee

Sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of India, New Delhi

World Sparrow Day

Theme: ❤️ "I Love Sparrows" | Date: 20.03.2023



(Sparrow serves the Ecosystem of the Earth)

Sparrow serves the ecosystem of the earth. Sparrows mostly prefer seeds of millet, thistle, weed and sunflower seed. However, they also eat fruits and berries. During this process, sparrows spread seeds to places away from the fruit tree. This is important for germination of the seeds, because if the seeds fall close to the parent plant, they would have to compete for nutrition with the mature plant. This would reduce the chance of germination of the seed as well as growth of the plant once the seed germinated. By spreading seeds, sparrows help the survival of many plants that are the producers in an ecosystem.



SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE CHIRPING BIRD

1. Males and female house sparrows can be easily distinguished by the feather colouration: males have reddish backs and a black bib, while females have brown backs with stripes.
2. Sparrows raise three nests of 3-5 eggs. Both male and female help to incubate the eggs for 12-15 days. The fledgelings usually fly out after 15 days.
3. Sparrows cannot be found in forests or deserts, unlike other birds. It prefers being in close association to human settlement, including urban and rural areas. They inhabit an ideal sparrow habitat nesting on buildings, roofs, and houses.
4. Sparrows usually fly at the speed of 24 miles per hour. When needed (in the case of danger), they can accelerate to the speed of 31 miles per hour.
5. Sparrows can survive between 4 and 5 years in the wild.
6. The oldest sparrow recorded till date is known to live for 15 years and 9 months!.
7. House Sparrows have the capability of swimming underwater! Yes, it's true. Even though these birds are not water birds, it is observed that they can actually swim underwater to move from one place to the other.
8. These birds are aggressive and social, which increases their ability to compete with most native birds.
9. House Sparrows love to play with dust and soil. They spoil themselves in the dust as if trying to have a bath with it.



TYPES OF SPARROWS



Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*)

These migratory birds are from the northern part of the nation. They are seen migrating from Nepal and Pakistan to Indian sub-continent.

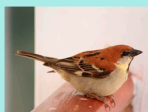
Identifications: You can characterise the males by their chestnut crown, black breast and blackish skin with pale braces. A female Spanish Sparrow has a longer whitish supercilium fine streaking on underparts and pale braces.



Sindh Sparrow (*Passer pyrrhonotus*)

Just as the name suggests, these birds are originally from the North West Frontier of the sub-continent. That is: Pakistan (including the region which was formerly known as Sindh). They are usually found in the areas with tall grasses and shrubs.

Identifications: You will see a crescent chestnut on the back of ears of both the male and female species.



Russet Sparrow (*Passer rutilans*)

This sparrow is found mostly in the North Eastern Himalayan ranges.

Identifications: They are chestnut coloured like most sparrows but have a yellowish tinge over their underparts.



Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

These are found in Eastern India (near Bangladesh).

Identifications: These sparrows have black spot near their ear region. Both, the male and female look very identical to each other.



House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

These are common house sparrows which are found all over nation.

Identifications: Both the males and females are brown in colour with a greyish tinge over their crown and near their underparts.





THREATS OF SPARROWS

1. Due to rapid urbanisation.
2. Raising pollutions.
3. Felling of trees.
4. Lack of cavity nesting.
5. Loss of wide variety of native vegetation.
6. Absence of hedgerows.
7. Diminishing ecological resources.
8. Widespread use of concrete.
9. Modern grocery storage.



WHAT WE CAN DO

1. Adopt a nest box (surrogate cavity) and a feeder with the right kind of grain in it, to encourage sparrows to feed. This way, you'd provide them with a constant source of food.
2. Plant native species of plants to help build a sparrow-friendly habitat and to espouse insect population.
3. Setup a water bath, especially in summer, to allow the birds to drinks and bath.
4. Spread the word and encourage friends and family to save the sparrow.

