

Celebration of World Sparrow Day at Jhansi, UP

Every year World Sparrow Day is being celebrated all over the World on 20th March since 2010. This year Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society (IBCS) resolute to involve as many volunteers as possible so as to involve the younger generation in the conservation of House Sparrows. For this the schedule was planned out from December 2017 to March 2018. The aim for selecting these four months was in accordance to the onset of breeding period of House sparrows that starts from February onwards. In the month of December the artificial nest boxes were prepared with the shoe boxes that are a waste and usually thrown away. The earthen pots were also prepared with the help of local potter. The entrance hole of 3-3.2 cm diameter was made in the pots before baking them. The installation of nest boxes started by December end with the involvement of local people, with parallel sessions of



Traditional Pot maker is preparing artificial sparrow nests out of clay

awareness programmes. The installation was done much before the breeding period so that the sparrows get use to the artificial nest boxes and adapt them readily by February. For organizing awareness programmes, awareness material (Flyers in Hindi and English, Posters, artificial nest boxes) were provided to the volunteers mainly the teachers of Government schools. They were instructed how to systematize the programmes in the schools. The teachers also organized various competitions amongst the students like colouring competitions, quiz on House Sparrows. These activities assist the students to concentrate on the issue that they being involved in. The volunteers demonstrated the preparation of artificial nest boxes to the students. They also installed the nest boxes in the schools so that the students installed them rightly in their houses. These nest boxes have been adapted by the House Sparrows. On-site awareness and conservation programmes enhance students' experiences and simultaneously help build support for the House Sparrows. Artificial nest boxes were distributed amongst the students and school staff. The monitoring of the nest boxes and watching the birds accepting them as their new houses proved to be the best way to sensitively involve the students in the conservation of House sparrows. Some



Students participated in sparrow colouring activity

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of the volunteers also organized awareness programmes in their societies, involving the children of all age groups. The students took oaths to save sparrows and to maintain a suitable habitat for them. The distribution and plantation of bushy shrubs and thorny trees were done in the last week of February and first week of March. Wherever possible, the school staff and people were provided with the earthen pots so as to provide water for the birds. Hence the team members of Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society tried to cover all aspects associated with the conservation of House Sparrows such as nesting, roosting, foraging

sites and water availability. The press media was furthermore involved to take the message to the public with an appeal to count the House sparrows in their homes on 20th March. The response was positive and people reported about the sparrows at their homes. Many of them were also interested in installing the artificial nest boxes in their homes. The efforts of Sahib Singh, Shailendra Yadav, Tilakram, Sharla Maurya, Mamta, Vinay Kumar, Aman Yadav, Abhishek Namdev, Neetu, Archana, Saurabh, Nikhil, Rakesh, Shivam Pandey, Anand Yadav, Jyoti, Dilip, Sachin, and Sanskar are highly appreciable.

World Sparrow Day at University of Lucknow

Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology, Institute for Wildlife Sciences, University of Lucknow in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board and Regional Science City, Aliganj, is celebrating Sparrow Day from 2010 onwards and also started an initiative named “Gharaunda 700” since October 2015 with an aim to install 700 sparrow nest boxes in the city every year.

In 2015 - 700; 2016 - 500; 2017 - 900 nest boxes were installed). Our goal for the year 2018 is to install 450 nest boxes in Barabanki, Sitapur, Gonda, Hardoi districts.

For this the volunteers of the lab distributed around 2100 nest boxes in the city and spread awareness in about 2000 schools in the last two years.

Till now we have installed thousands of nest boxes in Lucknow and other districts of Uttar Pradesh:

In 2018, with the collaboration of Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board and Regional Science City, Aliganj, Centre for Biodiversity and Wildlife



Rangoli made by the participants