

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.

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

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.

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

Research and Conservation, Lucknow we celebrated Sparrow Week from 18 to 20 March 2018.

Prof. Amita Kanaujia along with research scholars and volunteers of Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, we organized three-day awareness programmes and celebrated World Sparrow Day with great enthusiasm. The team reached about 15,000 people and created awareness about sparrow conservation.

Nest box distribution stall

A stall for nest box distribution and mass awareness on 20 March 2018 was inaugurated by Prof. Padma Saxena and Prof. Amita Kanaujia, University of Lucknow. Approximately 450 nest boxes, 100 plants and 200 earthen pot were distributed in public for the care and betterment of house sparrow.

Signature Campaign

A signature campaign for Sparrow Conservation was also held on 20 March 2018 in front of the main gate of Regional Science City. General public enthusiastically gathered while the volunteers explained the ways to conserve sparrow.

House Sparrow Photo Exhibition: By Rajeev Rawat

Because of our efforts people have started showing interest in Sparrows and started installing artificial sparrow nests at their houses and surrounding areas. Inspired by this thought one person in Lucknow, Mr. Rajeev Rawat has captured photos at his own house and presented a beautiful Sparrow Gallery.

Competitions at Regional Science City

On 20 March, 2018 various programmes such as poster, rangoli and quiz competitions were organized in Regional Science City campus. Approximately 300 students from Gurukul Academy, CMS Mahangar, Bright way Inter College, Luknow Public School participated in the competitions. Prof. Padma Saxena, Prof. MadhuTripathi, University of Lucknow, were the guests for the valedictory function.

The programme was successfully closed by prize distribution to the winners of different competitions.

Submitted by Amita Kanaujia and Adesh Kumar, Biodiversity & Wildlife Conservation Lab, Dept. of Zoology, Institute for Wildlife Sciences, ONGC Center for Advanced Studies, University of Lucknow, Lucknow. Email: kanaujia.amita@gmail.com



Sparrow photo exhibition by Rajeev Rawat briefed by the experts