

U P STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD, LUCKNOW

BIODIV NEWS



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Editorial

Dear Readers,

Wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year 2017!

In this quarter, National Youth Day was celebrated with the great joy and enthusiasm. It is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of Swami Vivekananda, maker of the modern India. It was first declared by the Government of India in the year 1984 to celebrate the birthday of Swami Vivekananda as the National Youth Day. Since then (1985), it is started celebrating as the National Youth Day all over the country. Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow celebrated National Youth Day, 2017 on 12th January, 2017. The theme of this year was “Digital Payments”. The aim of this program was to make people aware about the “Digital Payments”

World Wetland Day was celebrated on 2nd February, 2017. The programme aimed at creating awareness for the wetland conservation among the students of schools and colleges and local people of the Uttar Pradesh.

Like previous years, U.P. State Biodiversity Board in collaboration with Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Regional City, Aliganj and Centre for Environment Education (CEE) celebrated World Sparrow Day during 17th to 20th March 2017 and several awareness programmes were also organized during the celebration.

Besides, a mass awareness car on 20th March 2017 was also inaugurated from 4th number Gate, University of Lucknow towards various regions in Lucknow such as Charbag, Ashiana, Krishna Nagar, Pahadpur, Alambag, Gomti Nagar, Polytechnic, Nishatganj, Balaganj, Thakurganj, Dubagga, Jankipuram, Kukrail, Madiyawa, Churamanpurwa, Khurramnagar, Rahimnagar etc. for creating awareness, conservation and management of House sparrow amongst local people of Lucknow city.

Your comments, suggestions to improve this issue are most welcome at upstatebiodiversityboard@gmail.com.

Editor

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1-Sparrow Conservation and Rehabilitation Center

Ruby Yadav, Adesh Kumar, Shivangi Mishra and Amita Kanaujia*

Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab

Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow

Email: kanaujia.amita@gmail.com

The **house sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*) is a bird of the sparrow family Passeridae, found in most parts of the world. It is not a water bird; the House Sparrow bathes itself in dust instead. It normally throws soil and dust over itself as though it were taking a bath in water. Sparrow is a brown, chunky bird that is about 15 cm long. It has a stout body, rounded wings and broad head. The bill is deep, conical and very well adapted for seeds of grains and weed eating. and very common in human- occupied habitats especially if there are bird feeders. They are generally found in farming areas, cities and suburbs. It typically avoids extensive woodlands, Grasslands, and deserts away from human development. The sexes exhibit strong dimorphism.

Male House Sparrow: Male has many of the bright brown and black markings, including most of the black throat and chest patch, called the "bib" or "badge". It also has a distinctive black bib, white cheeks, a chestnut mantle around the grey crown and chestnut-colored feathers on the upper wings. The male's bill is black in the breeding season and horn (dark grey) during the rest of the year.

Female House sparrow: The females and the young ones have a plain, dingy-gray breast; a distinct, buffy eye stripe; and a streaked back. The female has no black markings or grey crown. The female's bill is brownish-grey and becomes darker in breeding plumage approaching the black of the male's bill.



Male House Sparrow



Female House Sparrow

Juvenile: Juveniles are similar to the adult female but deeper brown below and paler above, with paler and less defined supercilia. Juveniles have broader buff feather edges, and tend to have looser, scruffier plumage, like moulting adults. Juvenile males tend to have darker Throats while juvenile female have white throats. The bills of juveniles are light yellow to straw, paler.



Eggs of House sparrow



Juvenile of house Sparrow

Breeding: Males take up nesting sites before the breeding season. Males start nest construction to attract female. The house sparrow is monogamous, and typically mates for life. Nests are most frequently built in the eaves and other crevices of houses. cliffs and banks, or tree hollows, are also used. Clutches usually comprise four or five eggs, though numbers from one to ten have been recorded. The eggs are white, bluish white, or greenish-white, spotted with brown or grey. Female incubate the egg while male only cover the eggs not incubate. Incubation period is 11-14 days. Young house sparrow remains in the nest 11 to 23 days then flew from the nests.

Threats: Sparrows number is fast declining, due to loss of nesting places, depletion of feed, urban sprawling, change in human lifestyle by using cement in buildings, depletion of holes in buildings, monuments, competition, change in agricultural practices, lacks of roosting, predation, use of pesticides, loss of grasses from towns and gardens listed them under the threatened birds.

GOURAIYA SARANKSHAN KENDRA

People have started showing interest in Sparrows and started installing artificial sparrow houses in their houses and surrounding areas. Inspired by this thought one person in Lucknow , Mr.Abdul Waheed has established a Gouraiya Sarankshan Kendra for the conservation of Sparrows.



Gouraiya Sarankshan Kendra established by Mr.Abdul Waheed

Requirements for Establishment of Gouraiya Sarankshan Kendra

- 1. Space (Plot):** plot should be minimum 1000 sq ft in size and must be clean and airy.
- 2. Sparrow Houses:** Aim behind the establishment of Sparrow conservation center is to increase the population of House Sparrow. The designed boxes are comfortable for birds where it could sit & feed the chicks more easily. In nest boxes there is entrance hole of 3.2 cm was made at bottom, so that it becomes less exposed to predators, Rain, high temperature, high wind, this house boxes were constructed according to the present modern construction pattern. Roof of nest painted with green colour. House Sparrow were successfully adopted them with gratification and breed successfully. These nest boxes were regularly monitored and analyzed to insure the presence of house sparrow.



Different kinds of Sparrow Houses

- 3. Feed and water:** The major reasons for the low house sparrow population were unavailability of nesting space and food for nestling. To increase the population of bird, an experimental setup was done in which four types of supplementary feeds foxtail millet (*setaria italica*) or kakun, pearl millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*) or Bajra, Rice or Chawal, he provide the four types of feed daily at separate places without mixing. During this they further guided to monitor the birds while feeding on supplementary feed & drink water. During this birds would not be disturbed by human presence.



House Sparrow feeds on Rice (Chawal)



Sparrow Drink Water

- 4. Plants:** In this center various types of trees also placed to provide suitable roosting site for sparrow. House sparrow preferred the small, bushy plants as well as trees with low heights (5-6 meters) for perching and roosting. House sparrow also roosted in spiny bushy trees and shrubs to avoid predation such as Babul (*Acacia nilotica*), Kaner (*Thevetia peruviana*), Raat rani (*Cestrum nocturnum*), Rose (*Rosa spp.*), Ber (*Zizypus mauritiana*), Lemon (*Citrus lemon*), Bottle brush (*Collistemon spp*), Chameli (*Jasminum officinale*), Ixora (*Ixora Coccinea*), Mehendi (*Lawsonia ihermis*).



Mahanadi Tree (*Lawsonia inermis*)



Neem Tree (*Azadirachta indica*)



Ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana*)

5. Fewer Predators: The house sparrow's main predators are cats and birds of prey, but many other animals prey on them, including crows, squirrels. By studying several research papers we find that cats are likely to have a greater impact on house sparrow populations. In Sparrow Conservation Center predator availability is very less which increases the survival rate of House Sparrow.

House Sparrow is included in the IUCN red list. During last 25 years its population has remarkably decreased. At this time Sparrow rehabilitation plays an important role to increase the number of House sparrows.

2-The National Youth Day, 12th Jan, 2017:

National Youth Day (Yuva Diwas or Swami Vivekananda Birthday) is celebrated with the great joy and enthusiasm in India every year on 12th of January. It is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of Swami Vivekananda, maker of the modern India. It was first declared by the Government of India in the year 1984 to celebrate the birthday of Swami Vivekananda as the National Youth Day. Since then (1985), it is started celebrating as the National Youth Day all over the country.



National Youth Day was celebrated on 12th January, 2017 in the premises of U.P. State Biodiversity Board as well as at different places/organisations in the State of Uttar Pradesh. It was focused mainly on “Digital Payment”. As the theme of this year was “Digital Payments”. The aim of this program was to make people aware about the “Digital Payments” and help them to understand that “Digital Payments” are the only way of instant and convenient way to make payments. The organizations which celebrated this event include:

- 1- Riverside Academy, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow
- 2- Lucknow University, Lucknow
- 3- Centre for Environment and Education, CEE, India
- 4- Divisional Forest Officer, Lalitpur
- 5- Divisional Forest Officer, Mahoba
- 6- Divisional Forest Officer, Renukoot
- 7- Divisional Forest Officer, Amroha
- 8- Divisional Forest Officer, Deoria
- 9- Divisional Forest Officer, Mirzapur
- 10- Divisional Forest Officer, Chitrakoot

**GLIMPSES OF THE VARIOUS CELEBRATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF
NATIONAL YOUTH DAY**



U.P State Biodiversity Board, Lucknow



Riverside Academy



Lucknow University



CEE, North



DFO, Lalitpur



DFO, Mahoba



DFO, Renukoot



DFO, Amroha



DFO, Deoria



DFO, Mirzapur



DFO, Chitrakoot

3- World Wetlands Day, 02nd Feb, 2017



World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2 February since 1971. The theme this year is “*Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction*”. The theme is selected to raise awareness to highlight the important role of wetlands in reducing the impacts of extreme events such as floods, droughts and cyclones. It also marks the date of adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar. World Wetlands Day was celebrated for the first time in 1997.

Wetlands are vital part of nature. During the dry season, they release the water stored, delaying the onset of droughts and reducing water shortages. The frequency of natural disasters worldwide has more than doubled in just 35 years, driven by climate- and weather-related hazards like flooding, tropical cyclones and droughts. UN Water estimates that 90% of all natural hazards are water-related. And the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts even more extreme events going forward.

The U.P. State Biodiversity Board celebrated World Wetland Day on 2nd February, 2017 in collaboration with Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology and University of Lucknow. The programme aimed at creating awareness for the wetland conservation among the students of schools and colleges and local people of the Uttar Pradesh. The awareness campaign started from 31st January 2017 to 2nd February 2017 during the campaign pamphlets and flyers based on wetlands conservation were distributed. Total ten teams of 42 research scholars and volunteers were spread in different parts of Lucknow districts.

The team leaders and members participated in Campaign

S.NO	AREA	TEAM LEADER	TEAM MEMBERS	CONTACT	SCHOOL COVERED BY TEAM
Team-1	Nirala Nagar	Mr. Adesh Kumar	Mr. Adesh Kumar Mr. Ashish Kumar Gupta Mr. Mannu Kumar	9026987174	1.New Way School 2. Government Higher Secondary school 3. Saraswati Bal Niketan Inter Colege
Team-2	Jankipuram	Mr.Asif Ahmad Siddiqui	Mr.Ritesh Prasad Ms.Afreen Siddique	8756456308	1.Green Way School. 3.Green Way Inter College. 2.Little Flower School 4.Bright Way School. 5.Uday Montessori School.
Team-3	Gomtinagar	Mr.Manish Kumar	Ms. Neelu Ms.Pooja Pant Ms.Anukriti Singh	8400699552	1.Police Modern Public School. 2.Red Rose Inter College. 3.St. Xaviers Convent School. 4.Almighty Public School.
Team-4	Gomtinagar	Mr.Shubham Mishra	Ms.Nida Fatima Ms. Vyanjana Yadav Mr. Viresh Kumar	9651053131	1.Anne Besent School. 2.Tulsa Devi Girls Inter College. 3.Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan School. 4.Sidhant World School.
Team-5	Aliganj & Babujanj	Ms. Deepti Vrema	Mr.Abhay Ms.Priyanka Ms. Shivani	9473853983	1.St, Fidelis School 2.Mount Berry School. 3.Nidhi Public School. 4.New Lalita Shastri School. 5.Geeta Vidyalaya.
Team-6	Mohanlalganj	Mr.Ravindra Pratap	Mr.Prashat Tripathi Mr.Saurabh	7417482583	1.New Public Inter College. 2.Kashishwar Inter College.

			Chaturvedi Mr. Shreyansh Yadav		3.Nav Jeevan College 4.Malti Narayan Inter College 5.St. Peter's Inter College
Team-7	Ashiyana	Ms. Shivangi Mishra	Ms.Vandana Dhiman Mr. Indra Kumar	9451568632	1.Swami Vivekanand Inter College. 2.Shivani Public School. 3.C.M.S. Ashiyana. 4.St. Thomas School. 5.Avadh Collegiate
Team-8	Chowk	Mr. Daya Shanker Sharma	Ms. Geetika Saluja Mr. Aniket Agnihotri Mr. Vivek Yadav	9506037154	1.Universal School. 2.D.K. Public School. 3.St. Joseph School. 4.S.S. Public School.
Team-9	Manak Nagar Alambagh Sringar Nagar Indralok Colony	Ms. Ruby Yadav	Mr. Akashdeep Yadav Ms. Sita Yadav Mr. Prem Kumar Maurya	7784838276	1.Prathmik Vidyalaya,Kanausi-1. 2. Prathmik Vidyalaya,Kanausi-2. 3.Vivekanand Inter College. 4.J.P. Baba Public School. 5. S.V.P. Inter College.
Team-10	Mahmoodabad	Mr.Asif Ahmad Siddiqui	Mohd. Gufraan Mohd. Arif	8756456308	1.Prathmik Vidyalaya, Bapupue-I 2.Prathmik Vidyalaya, Bapupue-II 3.Prathmik Vidyalaya, Paliyakala 4. Madarsa Aaliya, Saraiyya 5.Madarsa E- Islamia, Nyamatpur 6.Pragatisheel Janta Inter College

The programme started with a wetlands awareness campaign from the campus of University of Lucknow to schools and colleges of different regions of Lucknow such as Awadh collegiate, City Modern Public school, Swami Vivekananda Girls College (Aashiana), ASN Public Highschool and Prathmik Vidyalaya (Mohanlalganj), New way



public school, Shanti Niketan Inter College, Police Modern Public School, Red Rose Inter College, St. Xaviers Convent School, Almighty Public School, Prathmik Vidyalaya, Kanausi-1, Prathmik Vidyalaya, Kanausi-2, Vivekanand Inter College, J.P. Baba Public School, S.V.P. Inter College, New Public Inter College, Kashishwar Inter College, Nav Jeevan College, Malti Narayan Inter College, St. Peter's Inter College, St. Fidelis School, Mount Berry School, Nidhi Public School, New Lalita Shastri School, Geeta Vidyalaya etc. About 7000 school students of 51 schools and colleges along with 10,000 common people of areas Nirala Nagar, Aliganj, Ashiana, Manak nagar, Alambagh, Jankipuram, Gontinagar, Babuganj, Mohanlalganj, Mehmoodabad were being made aware about Wetlands and their importance.

Glimpse of awareness campaign organised in Schools and Colleges to aware the students on 2nd February 2017 on the occasion of World Wetland Day -2017



Wetlands Awareness in Gomatinagr and Jankipuram



Wetlands Awareness in Maanak Nagar and Aalambagh



Wetlands Awareness Aashiyana



Wetlands Awareness in Mohanlalganj



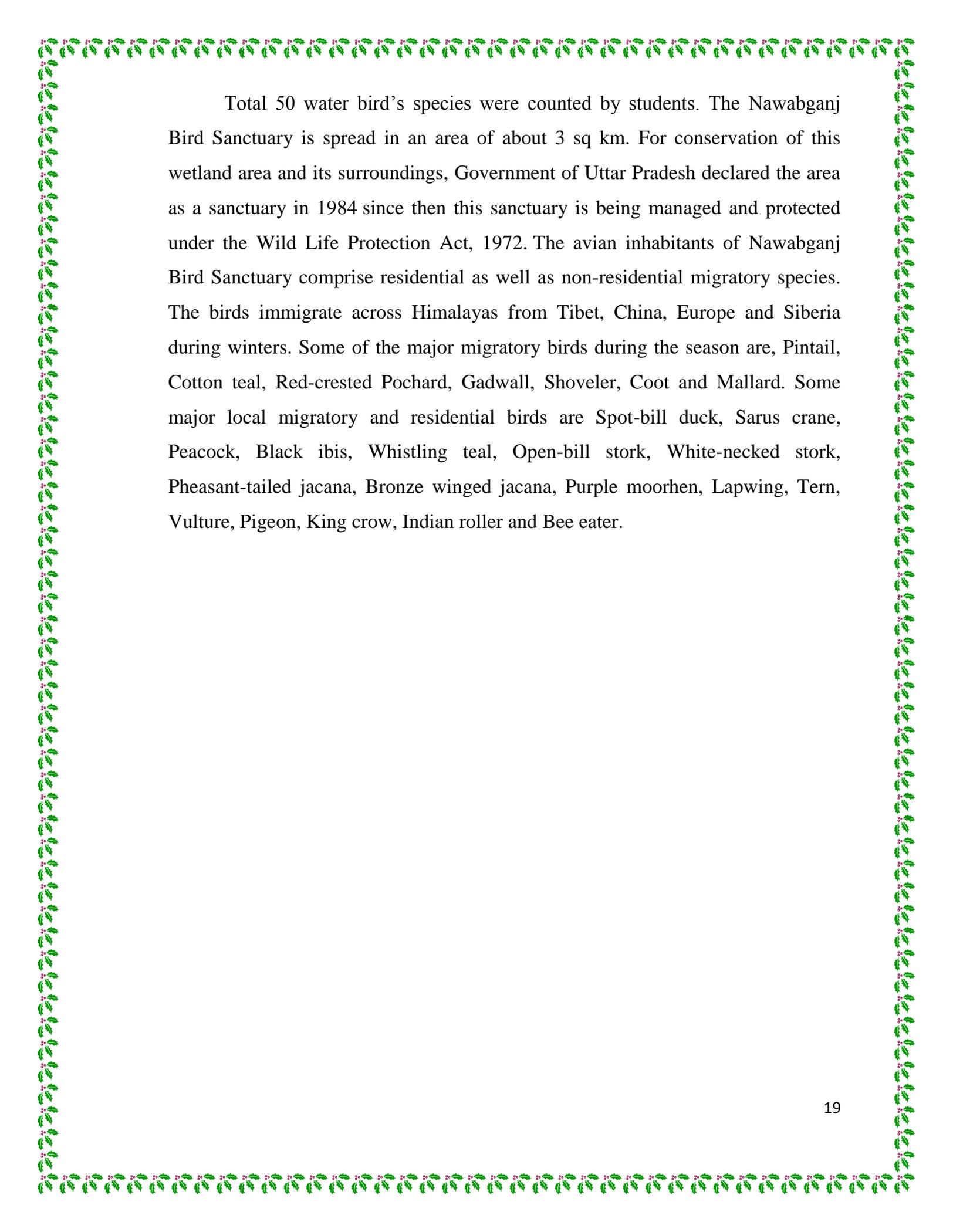
Wetlands Awareness in Mohanlalganj



On 2nd February i.e. on Wetlands Day the students were taken to Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary for wetlands birds' diversity survey, Identification and counting from 8:00 am onwards. Prof. Amita Kanaujia motivated the volunteers and delivered brief lecture to aware the students about wetlands, their role and the causes of decline and conservation. Students were divided in four teams with a team leader were set free in different directions in Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary to count the flora and fauna found in and around wetland.

Lecture delivered at Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary





Total 50 water bird's species were counted by students. The Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary is spread in an area of about 3 sq km. For conservation of this wetland area and its surroundings, Government of Uttar Pradesh declared the area as a sanctuary in 1984 since then this sanctuary is being managed and protected under the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. The avian inhabitants of Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary comprise residential as well as non-residential migratory species. The birds immigrate across Himalayas from Tibet, China, Europe and Siberia during winters. Some of the major migratory birds during the season are, Pintail, Cotton teal, Red-crested Pochard, Gadwall, Shoveler, Coot and Mallard. Some major local migratory and residential birds are Spot-bill duck, Sarus crane, Peacock, Black ibis, Whistling teal, Open-bill stork, White-necked stork, Pheasant-tailed jacana, Bronze winged jacana, Purple moorhen, Lapwing, Tern, Vulture, Pigeon, King crow, Indian roller and Bee eater.

Students Participating in Waterbirds counting at Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary





The NBS inhabits large variety of flora which includes Babul (*Acacia nilotica*), Safeda (*Eucalyptus*), Arjun tree (*Terminalia arjuna*), khair (*Acacia catechu*), Kadamba (*Anthocephalus cadamba*), Gurhal (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*), Neem (*Azardiachta indica*), Jungle Jalebi (*Pithecello biumdulce*), *Baugainvella*, and Bamboo. It is also infested with vegetation like Jal khumbhi (*Eichornia crassppes*), Jussiaea (*Jussiaea repens*), Water meal (*Wolfia globosa*), Sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*), Water lily (*N. pubescens*), Coon tail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), Cyprus (*Cyprus alopecuroides*), Pond weed (*Potamogeton nodasus*), Patera cuttail (*Typha lotifolia*), Big duck weed (*Spirodela polyrhiza*), Gerga grass (*Zizania acuatica*), Water spinach (*Ipomea aquatic*) and Smart weed (*Polygonum limbatum*) are common water weeds species in Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary.

In this way Prof. Amita Kanaujia and research scholars of Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab Adesh Kumar, Shivangi Mishra, Ruby Yadav, Daya Shanker Sharma and volunteers Asif A. Siddiqui, Vandana Dhiman, Mr.Ritesh Prasad, Ms.Afreen Siddique, Mr.Prashat Tripathi, Mr.Saurabh Chaturvedi, Ms. Deepti Verma, Mr. Shreyansh Yadav, Mr. Akashdeep Yadav, Ms. Sita Yadav, Mr. Prem Kumar Maurya, Ms. Neelu, Ms.Pooja Pant, Ms.Anukriti Singh, Ms.Nida Fatima, Ms. Vyanjana Yadav, Mr. Viresh Kumar and Mr.Manish Kumar etc.successfully celebrated this day with great enthusiasm.

List of Avifauna Reported from Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary

Aquatic Fauna	Team Waders	- Team- Sarus	Team- Storks	Team- Ducks & Geese
Little Grebe	+	+	+	+
Asian Openbill storks	+	+	+	-
Great Cormorant	+	-	-	+
Indian Shag	+	+	+	-
Little Cormorant	+	+	+	+
Darter	+	+	+	+
Little Egret	-	-	-	+
Median Egret	-	-	+	+
Cattle Egret	+	+	+	+
Grey Heron	-	-	-	-
Purple Heron	-	+	-	-
Little Green Heron	+	+	-	-
Indian Pond Heron	+	+	+	-
Painted Stork	-	+	-	-
Asian Open bill Stork	-	-	-	+
White-Necked Stork	-	-	-	+
White Waihtail	-	-	-	-
Yellow Wagtail	-	-	-	-
Greyleg Goose	-	-	-	-
Bar headed Goose	-	-	+	-
Common Shelduck	-	+	-	-
Comb Duck	-	-	-	+
Lesser Whistling -Duck	+	+	+	+
Northern Pintail	+	+	+	+
Common Teal	-	-	-	+
Spottbill Duck	+	+	+	+
Gadwall	+	-	-	-
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	+
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	+

Red crested Pochard	-	+	+	+
Common Pochard	-	-	+	-
Tufted Pochard	-	-	-	-
Cotton Teal	-	+	-	-
Sarus Crane	-	-	-	+
White-breasted Waterhen	+	+	+	+
Common Moorhen	+	+	-	-
Purple Moorhen	+	+	+	+
Common Coot	+	+	+	+
Black-winged Stilt	+		+	
Red-wattled Lapwing	+	+	+	+
River Lapwing	-	-	-	-
Little Ringed Plover	+	+	+	+
Marsh Sandpiper	-	-	-	-
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	+	+
Common Sandpiper	+	+	-	-
Little Stint	-	-	-	-
White breasted Kingfisher	+	+	+	+
Small Blue Kingfisher	+	+	-	+
Lesser Pied Kingfisher	+	-	-	-
Common Indian Pipit	+	+	-	-

2- (Legends= Present= +, Absent= -)

Photographs of some birds counted during the census



Purple Heron



Wire-tailed swallow



Asian open bill stork



Purple Moorhen



Northern Pintail



Cattle Egret



White Wagtail



Yellow Wagtail



White-breasted Kingfisher



Bronzed-winged Jacana



Black-headed Ibis



Lesser-whistling Duck



Common Coot



Pheasant-tailed Jacana



Red-wattled Lapwing

Other fauna also observed during counting



Skipper Frog



Water Snake

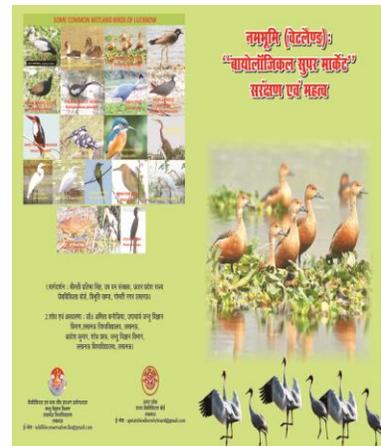


Soft shell Turtle

Awareness materials distributed



Flyers



Pamphlet

4- World Sparrow Day, 20th March, 2017

The World Sparrow Day is celebrated every year in different parts of the World since it was first celebrated in 2010 by Nature Forever Society. Among the various species of birds, the house sparrow *Passer domesticus* is closely associated with human habitations and cultivation throughout the world from historic time. The house sparrows are unwelcomed guests in our homes. In Hindi



it is commonly known as Gouraiya, it is a small, stocky song bird, thick bill and short legs. The sexes are dimorphic. Their stout beaks are well suited to a diet based on cereals, which they take from whenever they can find them.

Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board in collaboration with Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow and Regional Science City, Aliganj is celebrating Sparrow Day from **2009 onwards** and also started an initiative “**Gharaunda 700**” in October 2015 with an aim to install 700 sparrow nest boxes in the city in one year.

The U.P. State Biodiversity Board has also started sparrow count in collaboration with Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow. According to that Lucknow abodes a promising population of House Sparrow. Three types of sparrow houses have been installed in different areas of city and the nest boxes are very well adapted by house sparrows. Out of three types of nest boxes most preferred were wooden boxes followed by shoeboxes and the least preferred were earthen pots.



Fig. 1: House Sparrow adopte wooden box

Fig. 2: House Sparrow adopte shoe box



Fig. 3: House Sparrow adopte earthen pot

U.P. State Biodiversity Board in collaboration Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab with Regional City, Aliganj and Centre for Environment Education(CEE) is working continuously for the conservation of Sparrows and distributing and installing sparrow houses in the city. For this the volunteers of lab have distributed around 1000 nest boxes in the city and spread awareness in about 400 schools in last two years.

Like previous years, awareness programmes were organized from **17th to 20th March 2017** and celebrated World Sparrow Day with great enthusiasm. Four teams of 26 volunteers went in different directions of the city and rural areas.

Awareness by Different Teams in Lucknow and associated areas



Fig.4: Awareness in Prathmik Vidyalaya, Alambagh



Fig.5: Students enthusiastically asked for more awareness materials in Ashiyana



Fig.6: Distribution of awareness material among school students in Indira Nagar



Fig.7: Awareness in schools, Tedi Pulia



Fig.8: Distribution of awareness material among school students in Baldi Kheda



Fig.9: Lecture about sparrow among school students of BKT



Fig. 10: Awareness among College students



Fig.11: Awareness among common mass



Fig.12: Awareness among market venders



Fig.13: Awareness among auto-drivers



Fig.14: Awareness among shopkeepers



Fig.15: Awareness among fruitsellers



Fig.16: Distribution of Bird feed (Kakun) in Mashalchi Tola



Fig.17: Distribution of Bird feed (Kakun) in Kashyap Nagar



Fig.18: Distribution of Bird feed (Kakun) in Khadra



Fig.19: Distribution of Bird feed (Kakun) in Mohan Meekin Road area

Mass Awareness Car campaign

A mass awareness car on 20th March 2017 was also inaugurated by Mrs. Malti Singh, First Lady of University and Prof. Amita Kanaujia, University of Lucknow from 4th number Gtae, University of Lucknow towards various regions in Lucknow such as Charbag, Ashiana, Krishna nagar, Pahadpur, Alambag, gomti nagar, polytechnic, nishatganj, balaganj, thakurganj, dubagga, jankipuram, kukrail, madiyawa, churamanpurwa, khurramnagar, rahimnagar etc. for create awareness, conservation and management of House sparrow amongst local people of Lucknow city.



Fig.20: Sparrow Awareness car ready to go



Fig.21: Sparrow awareness car inauguration by Mrs. Malti Singh, First Lady of University



Fig.22: Sparrow Awareness car create awareness in common masses



Fig.23: Sparrow Awareness car camapagain enthusiastically aware the people

SPARROW COUNT

Since 2009 an appeal is being made to the general public every year through print and electronic media to count sparrow in and around their garden/house on 20th March in morning from 6-7 am since 2011. For that a counting form is also distributed every year with awareness material. This activity forced the public to think about the sparrow if it is not found around their garden. Hence people were forced to make efforts to bring them back.

SN	Year	Number of House Sparrow
1	2013	2503
2	2014	3362
3	2015	5637
4	2016	6036
5	2017	7066

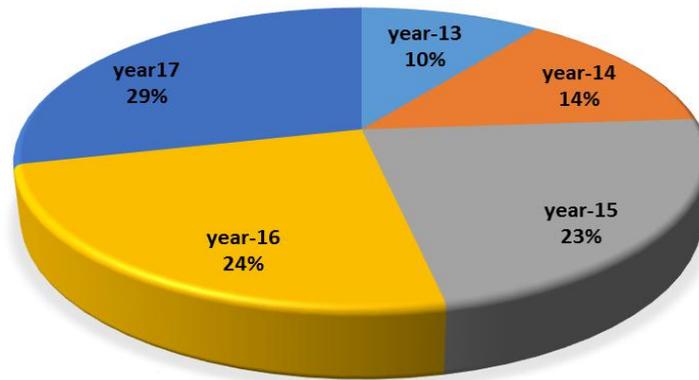


Fig.24: Percentage of House sparrow in every year increasing

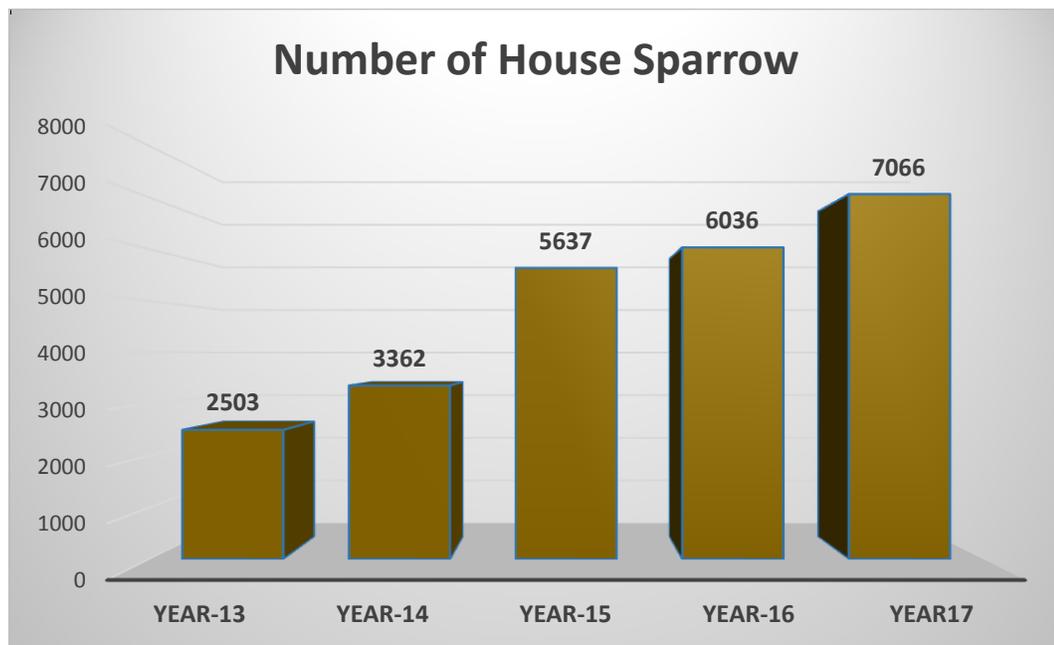


Fig.25: Number of House sparrow increasing successively from 2013-2017

Completions at Regional Science City: 20th March, 2017

On 20th March, 2017 various programmes such as Poster, Rangoli, quiz and photography competitions based on House sparrows, have been organized in Regional Science City. Approximate 100 students of Gurukul Academy, CMS Mahangar, Brightway Inter College etc. participated in various above competitions. The winners got felicitated with books as prizes. Mrs. Malti Singh, First Lady, University of Lucknow, Shri Umesh Kumar, Prof.Omkar, Prof.Madhu Tripathi were the guests in the Valedictory Session.

Event: Poster Competitions Result Group A

S.N.	Name	Class	Institution	Position
1	Khushi Madesia	6 th A	Gurukul Academy	First
2	Aryaman Singh	6 th A	Gurukul Academy	Second
3	G. Prashant	8 th A	Gurukul Academy	Third
4	Nirupama Srivastava	6 th B	Gurukul Academy	consolation

Group B

S.N.	Name	Class	Institution	Position
1	Shivam Verma	9 th	C.M.S. Mahanagar	First



Fig.27: student participated in Poster Competition



Fig.28: student participated in Poster Competition



Fig.29: Judgment of Poster Competition



Fig.30: Posters made by Winners



Fig. 31: Poster Competition Group A: 1st prize, Khushi Madesia, 6th A, Gurukul Academy



Fig.32: Poster Competition Group A: Group A, 2nd prize, Aryaman Singh 6th A, Gurukul Academy

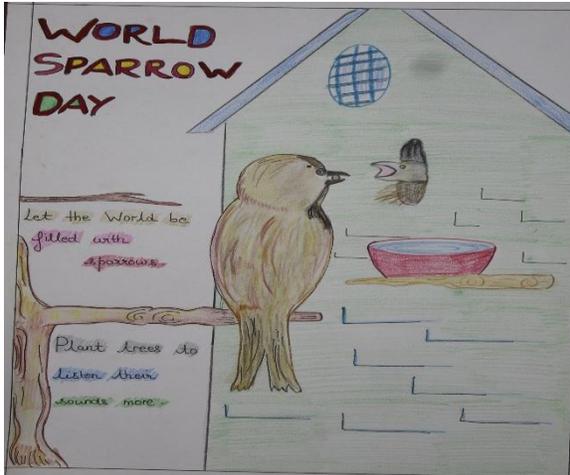


Fig.33: Poster Competition Group A: 3rd prize,
G. Prashant 8 th A, Gurukul
Academy



Fig.34: Poster Competition Group A:
Consolation prize, Nirupama Srivastava,
Gurukul Academy



Fig.35:Poster Competition Group B: 1st prize,
Shivam Verma, 9th C.M.S.
Mahanagar

**Event: Rangoli Competitions Result
Group A**

S.N.	Name	Class	Institution	Position
1	Shubhanshi Srivastava	6 th	C.M.S. Mahanagar	First
2	Ahana Srivastava	6 th	Gurukul Academy	Second
3	Nirupama Srivastava	6 th	Gurukul Academy	Third

Group B

S.N.	Name	Class	Institution	Position
1	Kumar Pratyush	9 th	C.M.S. Mahanagar	First



Fig.36: student participated in Rangoli Competition



Fig.37: student participated in Rangoli Competition



Fig.38: Judgement of Rangoli Competition



Fig. 40: Rangoli Competition Group A: 1st prize, Shubhanshi Srivastava, 6th C.M.S. Mahanagar

Fig.39: Judgement of Rangoli Competition



Fig. 41: Rangoli Competition Group A: 2nd prize, Ahana Srivastava 6th, Gurukul Academy



Fig. 42: Rangoli Competition Group A: 3rd prize, Nirupama Srivastava, 6th, Gurukul Academy



Fig. 43: Rangoli Competition Group B: 1st prize, Kumar Pratyush 9th C.M.S. Mahanagar

**Event- Quiz Competition
Group A**

S.N.	Name	Class	Institution	Position
1	Aaradhya Kesarwani	6 th	C.M.S. Mahanagar	First
2	Shubhanshi Srivastava	6 th	C.M.S. Mahanagar	First
3	Kanishka Singh	7 th	C.M.S. Mahanagar	Second
4	Kavya Gupta	7 th	C.M.S. Mahanagar	Third
5	Aryaman Singh	6 th	Gurukul Academy	Consolation
6	Khushi Madesia	6 th	Gurukul Academy	Consolation
7	Mahi Pal	7 th	Gurukul Academy	Consolation

Group B

S.N.	Name	Class	Institution	Position
1	Kumar Pratyush	9 th	C.M.S.Mahanagar	First



Fig.44: Quiz on Sparrow



Fig.45: Participants of Quiz Competition

**Event- Photography Competition
Group A**

S.N.	Name	Class	Institution	Position
1	Virendra Sharma	7 th	Brightway Inter College	First
2.	Ishita Raj			Second

Group-B

S.N.	Name	Class	Institution	Position
1.	Afreen Siddiqui	B.B.A. 2 ND SEM	K.M.C. University	First

Some Glimpses of Award Ceremony Function



Fig.46: Winners felicitated by Certificates and Books



Fig.47: Memento presentation to the Guests



Fig. 48: Informative speech delivered by Mr.Umesh Kumar, Co-ordinator, Regional Science City,Aliganj.



Fig.49:Group Photo of Volunteers and Winners



Fig.50: Chief Guest during award ceremony



Fig. 51: Mr.Abdul Waheed being felicitated for his efforts for Sparrow Conservation

Sparrow Day Celebration in Jhansi: 20th April 2017

RMSG College, Jhansi in collaboration with Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow and Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board celebrated world sparrow day 2017. On this occasion RMSG college create awareness in students and local people in Jhansi and organized poster competition for students.



Fig. 52: winners posters: Poster Competition



Fig.53: Winners of Poster competition

5-Newspaper Clippings

i) International News

The Hindu 25-02-2017

THE HINDU
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2017

Penguins lived alongside dinosaurs

Amateur fossil hunter finds foot-bone near Waipara River in New Zealand

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

A giant penguin foot-bone discovered in New Zealand shows that the ancestors of everyone's favourite flightless bird waddled Earth during the age of dinosaurs, researchers have found.

Before an asteroid wiped out non-avian dinosaurs some 65.5 million years ago, in other words, super-sized penguins breathed the same air as *Tyrannosaurus* and the flesh-ripping *Dinornis*.

The new find, unearthed by an amateur fossil hunter near the Waipara River in New Zealand, does not by itself prove penguin-dinosaur cohabitation.

The eight-centimetre bone dates from about 61 million years ago, well after *Tyrannosaurus Rex* and company faded from the scene.

Strong evidence

But the existence of another giant penguin fossil, found earlier nearby, is smoking-gun evidence that a shared ancestor lived millions of years earlier.

"The two penguins – from exactly the same locality – are morphologically quite different," said Gerald Mayr, an ornithologist at Senckenberg Research Institute in Frankfurt, Germany, and lead author of a study unveiling the discovery.

"This suggests that their last common ancestor lived much earlier, in the time of dinosaurs," he said.

This "mother-of-all-penguins probably pre-dated its evolutionary descendants by five to 10 million years, which would have put it squarely in the late Cretaceous period when dinosaurs still flourished," he added.

The results were published in the journal *The Science of Nature*.

Early penguins probably survived the catastrophic asteroid blast and subsequent change in climate because they their food sources were more surf than turf.

By contrast, land-locked dinosaurs that didn't burn up at impact probably starved to death during the decades-long winter that followed, scientists conjecture.

150-cm tall

The Waipara giant penguin stood at least 150 centimetres tall, just shy of the average height of a female human. That's at least a head taller than the Emperor penguin, the largest of the 17 penguin species – all in the southern hemisphere, and most in Antarctica – alive today. "It was probably a separate species," said Mr. Mayr. But more bones must be found before it can be declared as such, and formally named.

Only one other prehistoric penguin that lived in Antarctica between 45 and 33 million years ago, *Anthropornis nordenskjoeldi*, was bigger than Waipara.

All the ancient giant penguins discovered to date already moved with the upright, waddling gait characteristic of today's species, the study said.



Artwork released by the Geology Museum, University of Otago, shows giant penguins during the age of dinosaurs.

The Hindu 28-02-2017

THE HINDU
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017

Mapping dolphin proteins may benefit human health

Scientists make detailed index of all proteins in genome

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW YORK

Mapping all the proteins found in the dolphin genome could pave the way for finding a new way to treat some common diseases that affect humans, say researchers.

"Dolphins and humans are very, very similar creatures," Ben Neely of the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) said in a statement.

"As mammals, we share a number of proteins and our bodies function in many similar ways, even though we are terrestrial and dolphins live in the water all their lives," said Mr. Neely, who along with his colleagues created a detailed, searchable index of all the proteins found in the bottlenose dolphin genome.

A genome is the complete set of genetic material present in an organism. Although a detailed map of the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) genome was first compiled in 2008, recent technological breakthroughs enabled the creation of a new, more exhaustive map of all of the proteins produced by the dolphins' DNA.

Studies have recently revealed a protein, known as vanin-1, may help the marine mammals protect their kidneys. Humans produce vanin-1, but in much smaller amounts.

Researchers would like to gather more information on whether or not elevating levels of vanin-1 may offer protection to kidneys.

"There's this gap in the knowledge about genes and the proteins they make. We are missing a huge piece of the puzzle in how these animals do what they do," Mike Janech from the Medical University of South Carolina, said.

Vanin-1 is just one example of how genomic information about this mammalian cousin might prove useful. There may be hundreds of other similar applications.

"Once you can identify all of the proteins and know their amounts as expressed by the genome, you can figure out what's going on in the bottlenose dolphin's biological systems in this really detailed manner," Mr. Neely explained.



ii) National News

The Hindu 05-03-2017

THE HINDU
SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017

Now, drones to be used for monitoring tigers

Drones will also collect information about poaching activities and forest fires

K.S. SUBBH

Conservation drones will soon hover over select tiger reserves of the country, marking the beginning of significant technological intervention in wildlife conservation.

Though intended primarily for the monitoring of tiger population in the reserves, the unmanned aircraft would collect and transmit visual data on animal movements, poaching activities and instances of forest fire from inaccessible forest terrains on a real-time basis. The drones could be used for the management of habitats and species.

Population monitoring
This technological intervention comes from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun.

Though aerial vehicles, both manned and unmanned, are used in western countries for surveillance, population monitoring of wild animals and crisis management, manned aerial vehicles were occasionally used in India for animal count and forest mapping.

Drones were recently used for conservation programmes in the forests of Assam and Madhya Pradesh. Drones were used in Panna Tiger Reserve.

As wildlife populations, especially those of large animals such as rhino, tiger and elephant, move beyond the protected boundaries, advanced sophisticated technological solutions are required for their protection, as many of these animals are targets of poachers, WII researchers noted.

The drones have "programmable auto-pilot and telemetry systems, capable of recording and live transmission of information." Night

patrolling of forest terrains using thermal cameras, radio-tracking of animals and habitat monitoring could also be possible with these vehicles, according to V.B. Mathur, director of WII.

Pilot projects
In April 2013, the test flight of a small aircraft, Maja, was undertaken in Kanha Tiger Reserve. Later, in January 2014, three other drones were tested in Panna Tiger Reserve, where WII has initiated a long-term tiger re-introduction and monitoring project.

The two institutions, NTCA and WII, are now in the process of scaling up the project in 10 tiger reserves across the country.

Each reserve would get five vehicles.

Each vehicle would cost around Rs 4,00,000. The Union ministries of Defence and Civil Aviation have cleared the project. Strict conditions have also been imposed while permitting the use of drones, according to Dr Mathur.

While deployment and data collection would be carried out judiciously by trained teams of people working with Wildlife Institute of India and State Forest Departments, the research and development activities for further improvisation of the technology for various purposes would be continued in a collaborative mode with national and international organisations, he said.



The Hindu 21-03-2017

THE HINDU
TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017

Bear cubs sighted at Daroji sanctuary

Wildlife enthusiasts have a reason to cheer as cubs were spotted after 4 years

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BALLARI**

Wildlife enthusiasts would cheer if they were to visit Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary, adjacent to world famous Hampi, today, for they will be able to see sloth bears carrying cubs on their back.

"I was very happy to see a mother bear with two of its cubs on its back. I am seeing this after a gap of nearly four years," said S.K. Arun, honorary district wildlife warden and wildlife enthusiast, who was happy to share the experience with

The Hindu. The sanctuary, which is the biggest in Asia, is spread over 82.5 sq km and has a bear population of over 100.

Haven for birds
This apart, the sanctuary is also a haven for leopards, wild boars, peacocks and over 200 species of birds. It is a favourite spot for nature lovers too.

Forest officers, who were concerned over cubs not being sighted earlier, are also pleased that breeding has been taking place.



New entrants: The sloth bear and her cubs in the Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary in Hampi. •S.K. ARUN

iii) State News

The Pioneer 31-01-2017



Dainik Jagran 31-01-2017



HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
FRIDAY, MARCH 03, 2017

Rare migratory birds spotted at Bara power plant siltation pond

Smriti Malaviya
smriti1n@gmail.com

ALLAHABAD: Flyash siltation pond of Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited in Bara, about 40kms from Allahabad, has become bird watchers' delight these days as for the first time over a dozen species of nearly 5000 migratory birds from wetlands of colder regions have arrived here. Sangam, which is considered a haven for migratory birds, receives only a few species of avians in winter in comparison to this newly-formed bird sanctuary of the state.

Spread in 25 acres in Bara, fly-ash siltation pond is an engineered structure that was formed for disposal of bottom ash and fly ash. The man-made pond has become paradise for these migratory birds, which have arrived for the first time this year. The area has now become the high security zone of the power plant. Plans are on the cards to make it an eco-tourism and learning spot in the coming days for international tourists and school children.



Rare migratory birds at Flyash siltation pond. SANJAY KUMAR/HT

"In the early winter season I spotted over 5000 migratory birds. The major ones included northern pintails, northern shovellers, gadwalls, common coots, common teals, 50 odd rudy shelducks, few red crested pochards, common redshanks, green-shanks, green sandpiper besides many endemic wetland species like comb ducks, spot billed ducks, cotton pygmy goose, glossy ibis, lesser whistling ducks. Some very rare species like glossy ibis, Asian openbill stork, woolly necked stork, bronze winged jacanas, etc were also seen in this area," said DM, Allahabad, Sanjay Kumar, a wildlife enthusiast who has also written book on birds.

The DM conducted an inspection of the power plant on March 1 and was surprised to find many new species of birds in the area.

"The area around the power plant is similar to the Bundelkhand landscape, therefore, I could easily spot around 40 odd dryland birds like ground pipsits, ashy crowned sparrow lark, crested lark, black winged kite, Eurasian and collard doves, green bee eaters, Indian roller, hoopoe, black drongos, red vented and red crested bulbuls, long tailed shrikes, Indian robin among others. It was amazing to see that right in the first year itself such a large number of migratory birds had come. Their numbers would swell in coming years when there is comparatively less disturbance due to construction work and movement of labourers. Also the power plant working at full capacity would mean more flyash effluence and so more of organic feeding material available for these migratory birds," he added.

HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW
MONDAY, MARCH 06, 2017

Indian Bird Race: City folks record 102 avian species

HT Correspondent
kronspeter@lucknow.hindustantimes.com

LUCKNOW: Bird watching enthusiasts spotted over 100 avian species in the state capital during the event 'Indian Bird Race - 2017' on Sunday.

"We could register 102 bird species. We also saw some seasonal ones, including the Hawk Cuckoo, popularly known as the brainfever bird," said Neeraj Srivastav, honorary secretary of the event.

The Indian Bird Race is an annual event that aims at helping people learn more about various avian species and doing their bit in conserving the nature. Lucknow is a prized destination among the 13 cities that host this event.

"This unique event helps in bringing about people's rendezvous with these amazing winged creatures," said Srivastav.

During the dawn-to-dusk event, people from different walks of life experienced and bonded over bird watching. The participants spent the day spotting and identifying bird species in an effort to record as many as they could. Doctors, chartered accountants, government employees and students learnt the finer points of bird watching from experts as they visited different locations.

Overall, 18 teams went to different spots, including Lucknow University, Gomti riverfront, Kukrail forest area, Indira Canal, Dilkusha, IIM road and Moosabagh.

when most migratory birds have already left," said Srivastav.

The avian population of a place is the best indicator of its ecological health. Noting the presence or absence of different bird species, experts can get a fair idea about the ecological condition of any area.



Eighteen teams of bird watchers went to various locations. HT PHOTOS

DAWN-TO-DUSK EVENT

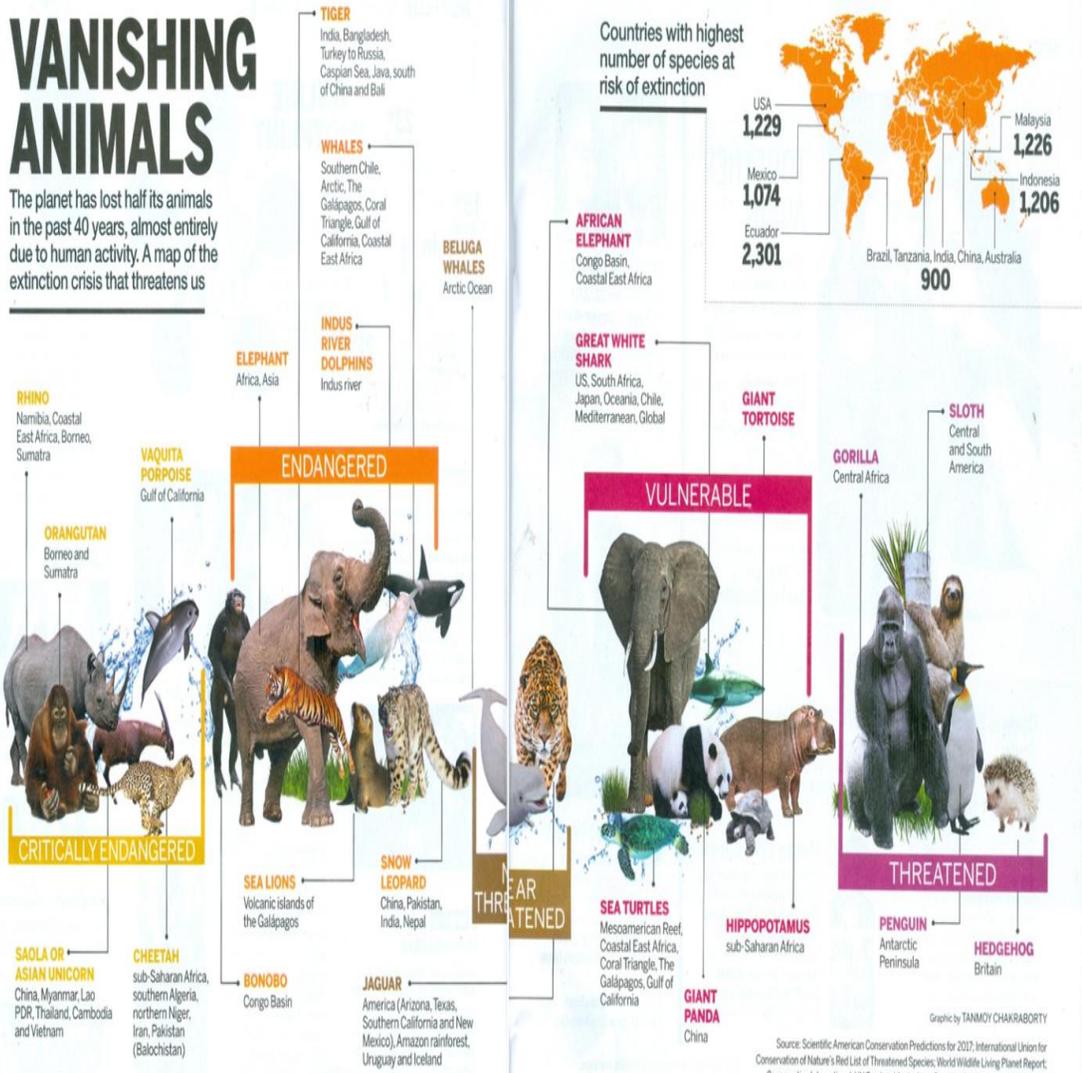


- Bird watchers visited the following locations - Lucknow University, Gomti riverfront, Kukrail forest area, Indira Canal, Dilkusha, IIM road and Moosabagh.
- A spokesperson said that spotting 102 birds was good as most migratory birds had already left. Around 170 species have been located in Lucknow so far.

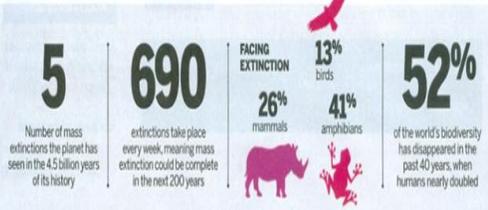
GLOSSARY | by DAMAYANTI DATTA

VANISHING ANIMALS

The planet has lost half its animals in the past 40 years, almost entirely due to human activity. A map of the extinction crisis that threatens us



Source: Scientific American Conservation Predictions for 2007, International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, World Wildlife Living Planet Report, Conservation International, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, The Eco Experts, 2015



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