



Distribution and dynamics of House Sparrow- *Passer domesticus* L. in some rural and urban places of Athani Taluk of Belagavi district, Karnataka.

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ABSTRACT

The population of House Sparrows is decreasing day by day due to many reasons. The Royal society for the protection of Birds (RSPB) and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) have planned for the protection of small loveable bird, House sparrow. A 12 months study has been conducted in four field stations in Athani taluk of Belgaum district. the population dynamics of House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* from April 2016 to March 2017, Regular field trips have been made to the selected field stations in rural areas such as, Nadi ingalganv, Chamakeri, Buralatti and Khavatkoppa in different seasons for a year. Similarly, in urban areas of Athani town the areas such as Hudco colony, SS Market, Shivayogi Nagar and Renuka Sugars have been visited periodically in different seasons to acquire data on the ecology of House Sparrow. A total of 12 visits to each of eight sites have been made during the 12 months study. In all four rural field stations and four urban field stations, the data on number of House Sparrows and their nests have been documented. It was found that in all the four rural field stations a total of 225 males, 238 females and a total 463 number of House Sparrows have been reported and duly recorded. Similarly, 109 males, 110 females and a total of 219 House Sparrows recorded in four urban field stations in Athithi town. This amounts to 68% of House Sparrows present in rural areas, where as only 32% of them exist in urban settings. The main reason for decline in population in urban areas is, the loss of habitat or roosting areas and nesting sites and non-availability of food sources. Similarly the decline is observed in rural areas too, as the number is gradually decreasing due to the up-gradation of the human settlements from thatched huts and mud houses to cement structures and roof of cement sheets. This resulted in loss of domestic habitat of House Sparrows. Apart from this the excessive use of pesticides, lack of food sources, air pollution, mushrooming micro wave towers etc in urban areas may be the cause for dwindling number of House Sparrows in Urban areas.

Key words: House sparrow, conservation, population decline, nesting, effect of radiation.