

1-Title of the Practice :- Creating awareness for House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) conservation in Doiwala Town and adjoining areas

2-Objectives of the Practice:

1. Assess the status of distribution and low abundance in the town.
2. Identify the causes of sparrow population decline.
3. Creation of Awareness among College Students and in nearby Schools.
4. To promote students to fix artificial nest box nearby to their house.

3-Context: Our preliminary survey showed that the population of the house sparrow in cities on the verge of alarming because there are no nesting sites, left hence the flock size is decreasing. There has been an increase in the use of plastic boards and the use of contoured tiles or roofing sheets to prevent the entry of birds on modern housing/ buildings. House sparrows predominantly nest in holes and gaps in soffit boards and under tiles, therefore this tendency may have an impact of the availability of nest sites. As there is no systematic survey on the house sparrow in the Uttarakhand and especially in towns and villages, the present awareness aims to focus on the status of sparrow population, among common people.

4- Best Practices as followed:

Doiwala is located near the centre of the triangle formed by the three important metropolitan and cultural regions of Uttarakhand - Dehradun, Haridwar and Rishikesh. It is known as the pilgrimage town. Climate is humid subtropical and average maximum temperature is 40 degrees Celsius and the average minimum temperature is 7 degrees Celsius. The wettest month is July with highest rainfall of 444mm.

Awareness Campaign: Special awareness campaign were conducted among college students and identified Schools. This includes celebration of Sparrow day, essay competition, poster making, short video, special nest box making workshop using recycled material etc. The survey has been conducted by students 2 hours after sunrise and 2 hours before sunset when birds are most active and conspicuous. The numbers of male and female individuals have been counted separately during each survey.

The survey conducted in alternate months. If there are no nesting spaces the artificial nest boxes has been fixed. The nest boxes will be monitored on specified interval by students. Base line data has been collected on House sparrow population for better conservation and management strategies. People of the town have become more aware about importance of birds in their life and for ecosystem.

5-Evidence of Success: This Practices is about to make aware students /peoples about disappearance of House sparrow. So, after conducting awareness campaign student started making artificial nest box and installed on their houses. House sparrow begin nesting on these artificial nests. Numbers of sparrow increasing within six months after putting artificial nest in nearby area. If we continue this type of activity year and after year, defiantly there will be increase in population of house sparrow.

6-Problems Encountered and Resources Required: Initially people hesitated and denied to participate but we continued to do awareness. Ultimately people started asking to put nest for house sparrow. More student as volunteers must be involved to spread the awareness to put artificial nest boxes.