



Reviving the Legacy



BURHANI  
FOUNDATION  
ESTD. 1992

# SAVING HOUSE SPARROWS:

## A Comprehensive Conservation Plan



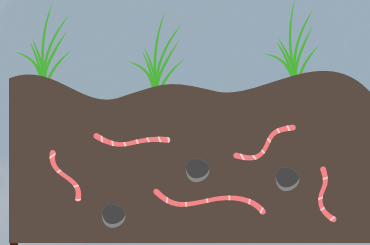
# What is a House Sparrow?

## Introduction

- House sparrows (*Passer Domesticus*) are small, social birds commonly found near human habitation that have evolved alongside human development.



# Importance of House Sparrows



## Ecological Role:

- Help control insect populations by feeding on pests like caterpillars.
- Contribute to seed dispersal, aiding plant regeneration.



## Cultural Significance:

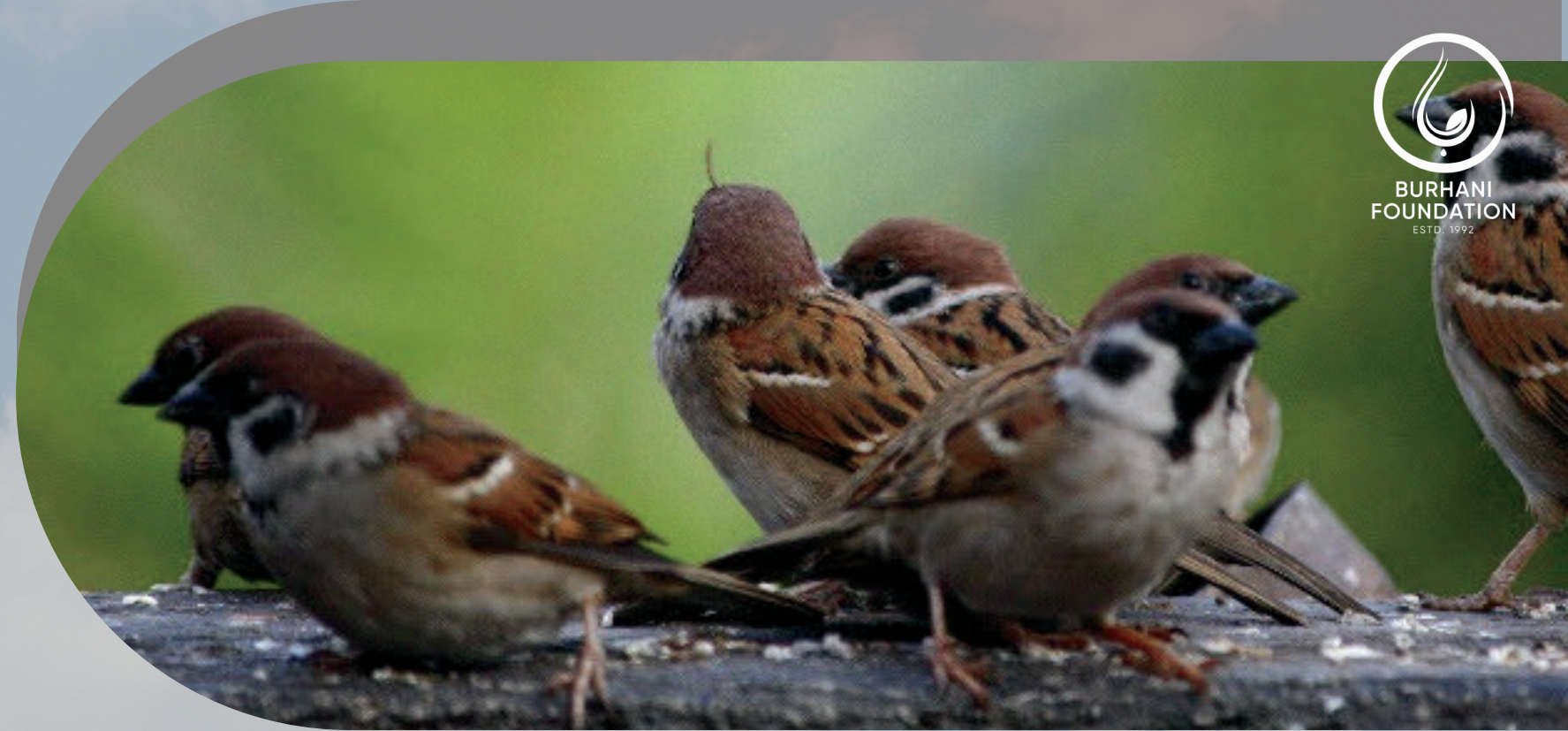
- Associated with urban and rural life for centuries.
- Symbol of coexistence between nature and humans.



## Indicator Species:

- Their population reflects the health of the local environment.

# Characteristics of House Sparrows



## Physical Features

- Brown, black, and white plumage.
- Males: Black throat patch and chestnut crown.
- Females: Duller, with no throat patch.

## Behavioral Traits

- Live in social groups, often noisy and active.
- Build nests in roofs, crevices, and birdhouses.
- Have quite short wings and aren't strong fliers, like to stick close to vegetation, ready to dash for cover if a predator appears.
- House Sparrows aggressively defend their nest holes.

## Fun Fact

The House Sparrow takes frequent dust baths. It throws soil and dust over its body feathers, just as if it were bathing with water. The soil bath helps them maintain their body temperature.

## Diet

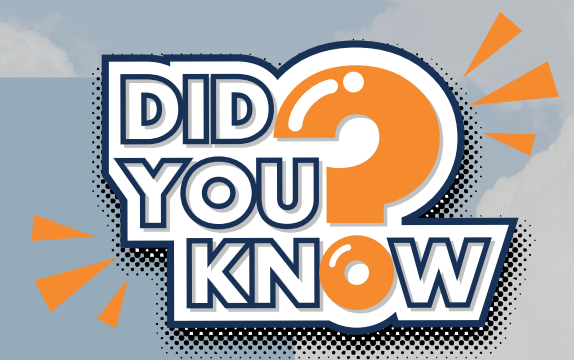
- House sparrows feed on grains, seeds, insects, and kitchen scraps. In urban areas, they scavenge in garbage, restaurant leftovers, and crumbs. Their diet also includes insects like beetles, caterpillars, flies, and aphids.

## Habitat and Nesting

- They are highly adaptable and thrive in both rural and urban environments,
- Well adapted to living around humans, it frequently lives and even breeds indoors, especially in factories, warehouses, and zoos.
- It usually uses deserted nests, though sometimes it usurps active ones by driving away or killing the occupants.

## Facts

- Young house sparrows remain in the nest for 11 to 23 days after birth
- The chicks' eyes open after about 4 days
- The young sparrows sustain their feeding needs completely after 7 to 10 days



# Reasons for their Decline

The decline of sparrows is largely due to insufficient insect food for nestlings, caused by excessive pesticide use in farming and increased urban pest control.



## Food Scarcity:

Pesticides reduce insect populations, their primary food source.

## Electromagnetic Radiation:

Mobile towers and EMF exposure disrupt navigation and communication.



## Loss of Habitat:

Urbanization has replaced natural nesting sites with concrete structures being constructed in ways that don't allow these birds to find cavities, the nesting sites for them

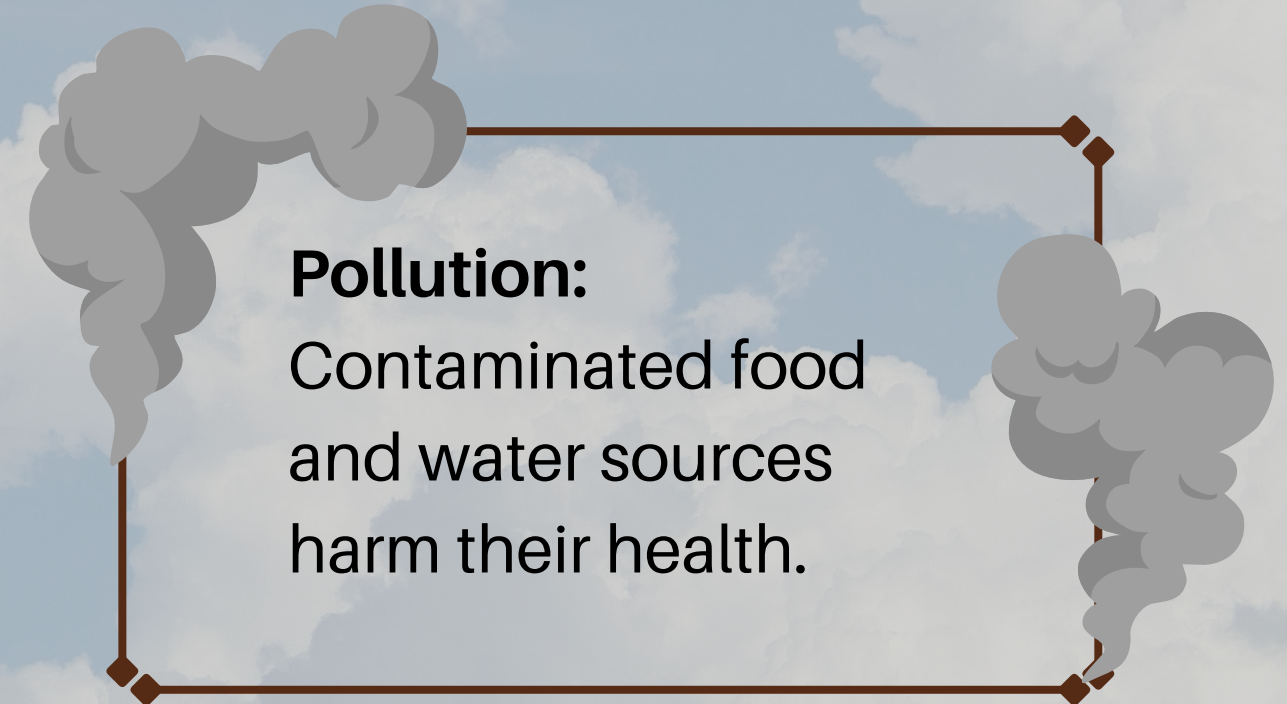


**Predators:** Increase in domestic cats and competition from larger bird species.



## Pollution:

Contaminated food and water sources harm their health.



# Why Should We Save House Sparrows?

## Biodiversity

Essential to maintaining ecological balance, their presence signifies the local biodiversity is at its best.

## Cultural Heritage

Their presence enriches urban and rural environments.

## Education

An opportunity to teach future generations about conservation.

## Warning Signs

Their decline signals larger environmental issues and largely disrupts the entire food chain and ecosystem.



# How Can We Save Them?



**Provide Food and Shelter:** Install bird feeders and nesting boxes.

**Plant Native Trees:** Provide natural food sources and nesting materials.

**Community Involvement:** Engage people in conservation efforts through education and awareness.





# Installation & Maintenance of Bird Feeders



Hang feeders in safe, quiet areas, away from predators



Position nests at least 6-8 feet above ground in shaded spots.



Clean feeders weekly to avoid mold and disease.



Refill with grains and water regularly.



Monitor for pests like ants or rodents.

## WHERE TO INSTALL YOUR BIRD FEEDER:

- Place the feeder in a safe, stable location where birds feel secure.
- Choose spots with all-round visibility, ideally within 6 feet from shrubs and trees or any convenient cover.
- For window placements, use areas with perches like grills.
- Ensure the feeder doesn't move or swing much and remains steady.

## MAINTENANCE OF BIRD FEEDERS:

- Clean feeders regularly using hot water (avoid detergents).
- Remove uneaten food and spilled grains to prevent disease.
- Install feeders in the evening and clean them in the morning.

## RECOMMENDED FOOD FOR BIRDS:

- Bajra (Pearl millet), Ragi (Finger millet), and in summer, broken rice.
- Ensure grains are of good organic quality for the birds' health.

## CAUTION:

- Do not feed stale, salty, or oily food—it can harm birds.
- Avoid feeding whole wheat or jowar.
- Maintain regular feeding to avoid disrupting the birds' routine.
- Provide clean water daily for drinking and bathing.
- Avoid over-tightening screws on the feeder plates to prevent damage.

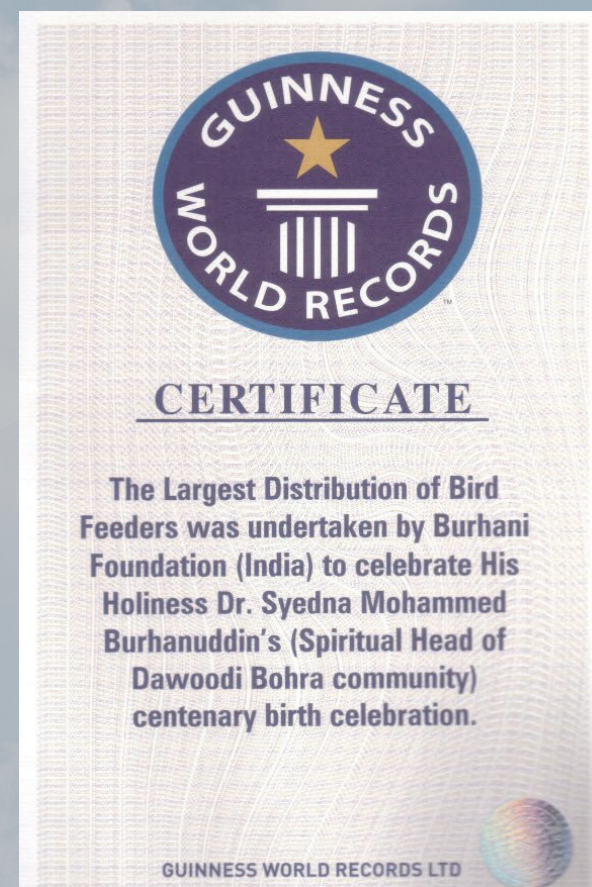


# Reviving our legacy

Launched during the Centenary Birthday celebrations of Al Dai al Ajal al Fatemi Al Hayyul Muqaddas Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (RA) as a tribute to his vision of environmental harmony.

Distributed 52,000 bird feeders globally to raise awareness and support sparrow conservation. This effort achieved global recognition by securing a Guinness World Record for distributing the largest number of bird feeders

Today, we aim to revive and expand this legacy, ensuring that the chirping of sparrows continues to resonate in our neighborhoods.



# Key Recommendations for House Sparrow Conservation



## Engage Communities

- Promote participation in Breeding Bird Surveys and monitoring activities.
- Share conservation tips via leaflets, websites, and public campaigns.

## Policy and Practices

- Implement best practices for building construction and renovation.
- Encourage policies that support sparrow-friendly infrastructure.

## Nesting Initiatives

- Provide and promote nest boxes for sparrows in residential and industrial areas.

## Reduce Harmful Practices

- Advocate for reduced pesticide use in gardens, parks, and urban spaces.

## Research and Data Collection

Update estimates of breeding populations using the latest data. Support research on urban bird ecology, focusing on house sparrows.

### Reference:

Suggestions based on the study published in the International Journal of Conservation Science (Vol 5, Issue 4, 2014, pp. 493-502) by Aatif Hussain, Sabyasachi Dasgupta, and Harendra Singh Bargali.



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## Ongoing Projects



### Cleanliness

Cleanliness is a prerequisite for the sustainable development of cities and communities.



### Green Cover

Increasing temperatures and greenhouse gases can be offset through individual and collective efforts.



### Renewable Energy

Renewable sources of energy have sustained gains in the form of reduced fossil fuel dependency and long-term financial benefits.



### Water Conservation

Cleanliness is a prerequisite for the sustainable development of cities and communities.



### Zero Waste

Responsible consumption is an integral part of circular living that ensures the well-being of all components of the ecosystem.

## Connect with us !



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