



Green Schools Network

ACTIVITY SHEET

April 2011

Why talk about SPARROWS



Once upon a time, the break of dawn was accompanied by the cacophony of chirping sparrows. Spring was heralded by the sight of dozens of sparrows trying to find some nook or corner in every house to build a nest to lay their eggs and rear their young ones. Unfortunately, this doesn't happen any more!

Name.....

School Name

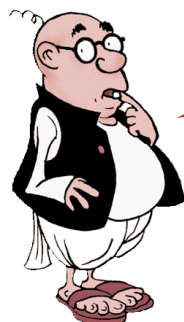
Class..... Date

Gobar Gyan

The number of sparrows in our cities and villages has dramatically decreased due to several major causes. Experts tell us that the **introduction of unleaded petrol** has contributed to this alarming trend in a big way. Its combustion produces compounds such as methyl nitrite, which is highly toxic for small insects. Seed-eating birds like sparrows depend on soft-bodied insects to feed their young ones as these form a major component of a young sparrow's diet. The widespread use of chemical pesticides in farmlands too, has resulted in the death of insects on which these birds prey.

According to ornithologists and wildlife experts, other reasons for the dwindling population include: lack of nesting sites in modern concrete buildings which don't have kitchen gardens increased use of pesticides in farmlands non-availability of sufficient food sources increase in the number of their natural predators like cats.

Today one misses the sight of sparrows hopping from branch to branch in the bushes outside one's house and their 'wake-up call' in the mornings!



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Activity-1

Ask your grandparents what they know about sparrows. Try to find out various stories and experiences and list them below.

Click a picture of a sparrow and paste it here

Activity-2

Observing Fauna

Observe a tree near your house for one hour in the morning and evening. Make sure you are not noticed. Record the animals/ birds visiting it. Do this exercise for three days.

	Morning	Evening
Day 1		
Day 2		
Day 3		

Activity-3

Make A Bird House

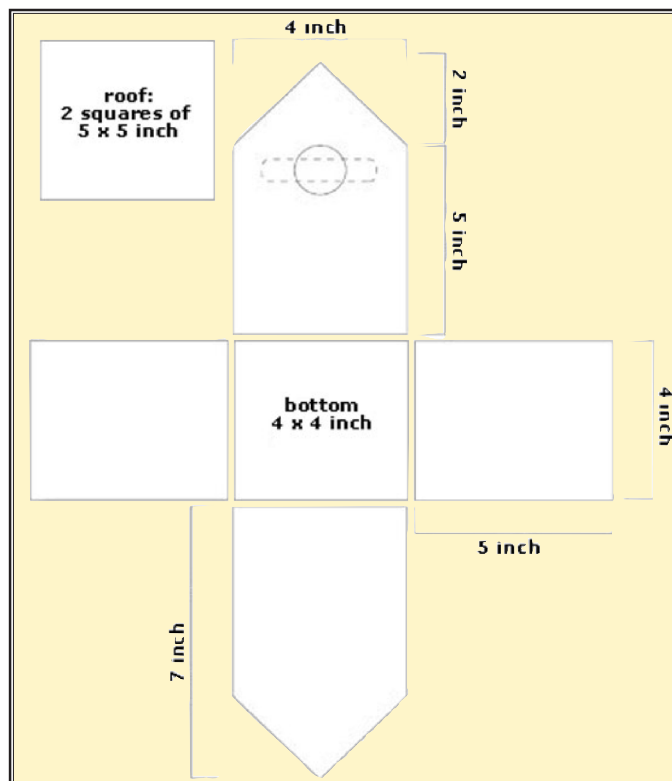
If we want to save sparrows we need to make homes for them. Please follow the instructions given below to make your own nest!

Requirements

1. 7-8 planks of wood or any alternative like cardboard or broken furniture/clay. (Wood should be untreated lumber as plywood contains formaldehyde and other toxic preservatives. Plastic and metal often overheat in the hot summer Sun.)
2. glue
3. nails
4. hammer
4. paints and paint brush

How to Build a Bird House

1. Apply glue to all sides of the planks.
2. Arrange them as shown in the figure.
3. Nail them (remember to use a hammer only under parental supervision).
4. Make a hole of sufficient size (approx 4 inches radius) for a sparrow to enter and for heat to escape.
5. Ensure that the roof is slanted enough to shed rain but has no perch.
6. Don't forget the drain holes. Now let's make our nest more colourful!



THE WORLD WOULDN'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT SPARROWS – WOULD IT?



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If you found the activity sheet interesting, E-mail us at eeu@cseindia.org or write to:
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