



Madras Naturalists' Society
1978-2018

SPARROW CENSUS WITH MNS

March 25 – July 31, 2018

Report Sparrow Sightings to:

<https://goo.gl/forms/wJkvby1Prf5kXVzi1>

AIMS

- To create a SPARROW ATLAS for Greater Chennai; and
- To Conserve Sparrows and their Habitats.

BACKGROUND

- Declines of House Sparrow populations have been recorded in urban and suburban areas.
- The environmental factors behind the decline have not been identified so far.
- Baseline information on the historical distribution of House Sparrows in Chennai is limited. In 2012, the Madras Naturalists' Society conducted a day-long survey of House Sparrows resulting in the creation of a distribution map from records contributed by Chennai citizens.

CENSUS PERIOD

March 25 – July 31, 2018

PARTICIPANTS

- Anyone who can survey a selected area in Greater Chennai comprehensively during the period mentioned above and is interested in doing so may participate.
- Participants may work individually or as teams.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD DO

- Identify the survey area/s.
- Survey the streets of the chosen area on foot for House Sparrows between 6.30 and 8.30 am each day till the entire area is covered. Every street and lane must be covered. One 2-hour session of surveying may involve walking 9 kilometres. An area as large as Adyar–Besant Nagar may require 10 sessions of duration 2 hours each for complete surveying.
- It is not necessary to conduct it on consecutive days. But the Census should be completed as quickly as possible.
- A log book should be maintained. For each session, the following information should be noted in the log book: date, time started, time completed, weather, streets covered, streets where House Sparrows are recorded, including landmarks to pinpoint the locations, activities of the Sparrows (singing, feeding, nest-building, feeding of chicks, flying), factors that may be responsible for the presence/absence of Sparrows (such as trees they may be using).
- House Sparrows can be located visually or by their calls. If they are located by their calls, visual confirmation should be obtained. When they are located, the number of birds seen should be noted – male and female.
- **At the end of each session, please report your findings on MNS Google Form:**
<https://goo.gl/forms/wJkvby1Prf5kXVzi1>

SURVEY TIPS

- (1) Where there is a regular, grid-like set of roads with many intersections, the participant could use his or her discrimination regarding the sequence in which these roads are to be covered. Total coverage is, however, required, as mentioned previously.
- (2) The chosen area could be sub-divided according to the convenience of the participant.
- (3) Identify large campuses in the area that could be covered for potential House Sparrow populations.
- (4) Mobile-device apps, GPS devices or any other devices could be used to conduct the Census more effectively.
- (5) Dogs, particularly in narrow alleys and dead-end lanes, may be aggressive. All care should be taken to avoid conflicts with such animals.
- (6) All efforts should be taken to avoid causing hindrance to traffic and to avoid getting struck by vehicles.
- (7) Residents and passers-by may be curious. Children in particular could be informed about the Census, and their knowledge about House Sparrows in the neighbourhood could be tapped. They could be encouraged to support House Sparrow populations in the area.

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