

Effect of urbanization on the abundance and distribution of Tree Sparrows (*Passer montanus*) in Beijing

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Abstract With rapid urbanization occurring throughout China, the existence of Tree Sparrows (*Passer montanus*) in big cities is likely to be affected by a decrease in habitat and food availability. Can the urban Tree Sparrow adapt to these changes? To elucidate this question, we studied the effect of urbanization on the abundance and distribution of Tree Sparrows in Beijing. We found the abundance of the Tree Sparrow negatively correlated with an urbanization score. Sparrow abundance was very low in residential areas with high-rise buildings, commercial centers and main roads, while their numbers were significantly higher in parks, university campuses, low building residential and suburban areas. Environmental factors within the 50 m and 200 m scales were most suitable in predicting the distribution of Tree Sparrows during winter, while factors within 50 m and 400 m scales are suitable during the breeding season. During winter, the number of conifer trees and pedestrians were the major factors at the 50 m scale, while the area of high-rise buildings and vegetation become the predominant factors on a 200 m scale. Alternatively, during the breeding season the area of low buildings and the number of conifers and pedestrians were the main factors on the 50 m scale while the area of high-rise buildings and vegetation remained the most important factors on the 400 m scale. These results indicate that highly urbanized areas are not suitable habitats for the Tree Sparrow, although this species can adapt to human environments. Food and nest sites for urban birds should be considered in urban planning of big cities in developing countries.

Keywords urbanization, Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*), abundance, distribution, Beijing

Introduction

The primary driver of the global decline in biodiversity is habitat loss and fragmentation, caused by anthropogenic pressure on natural ecosystems. Urbanization is arguably the most damaging, persistent and rapid form of anthropogenic pressure (Morneau et al., 1999; Park and Lee, 2000; Porter et al., 2001; Clergeau et al., 2006). Although studies in London have demonstrated that the changes of urban building structures and vegetation affect the abundance of urban House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) (Peach

and Vincent, 2006; Chamberlain et al., 2007), there is little information about the effect of urbanization on the abundance of the bird species closely linked to human environments in a rapidly developing country such as China.

The Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) is one of the most common birds found in a variety of environments along urban gradients in China (Ruan and Zheng, 1991; Pan and Zheng, 2003), which makes it a suitable model species to study the effects of urbanization on birds closely linked to human environments. They nest in hollows of buildings and eat small seeds (Ruan and Zheng, 1991); therefore, the distribution of this species is closely related to human environments. China's capital, Beijing, provides an example of a city with rapid urbanization during the last 20 years. The construction of new high-rise

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buildings have resulted in reduction of vegetation and the demolition of old buildings, reducing the food and habitat of the Tree Sparrow (Zhang et al., 2008). The abundance and distribution of Tree Sparrows are likely to be affected by habitat and food losses in Beijing. For these reasons, the objective of this study is to test whether the degree of urbanization affects the abundance of Tree Sparrows and what environmental factors impact the distribution pattern of this species.

Scale is an important aspect involved in most ecological problems (Levin, 1992; Willis and Whittaker, 2002). Urban planning is also a multi-scale process encompassing both local scale design such as the structure of residential areas and landscape scale design such as the distribution of buildings and vegetation (Savard et al., 2000; Hostetler and Kim, 2003; Melles et al., 2003). Some earlier studies used a theory of island biogeography to predict the relationship between urban bird distribution and characteristics of native habitat patches (e.g., a large park) such as patch size and the degree of isolation from other areas of habitat (Tilghman, 1987; Diamond, 1988; Soulé et al., 1988). Since the presence of birds was expected to vary with land use pattern and with the overall composition of the landscape in a complex landscape mosaic (Trzcinski et al., 1999; Austen et al., 2001; Fahrig, 2001), the biogeography theory was not sufficient for many urban scenarios. More and more recent studies have been carried out based on spatial-structuring theories in which local-scale and landscape-scale habitat features surrounding the habitats were combined to predict the habitat factors affecting urban bird distributions (Bolger et al., 1997; Rottenborn, 1999; Odell and Knight, 2001; Melles et al., 2003; Hostetler and Kim, 2003; Hiroshi et al., 2005). Although our previous work has discussed the factors affecting the distribution of Tree Sparrows in Beijing, the habitat variables in that study were only on a local scale (Zhang et al., 2008). Therefore, in this study we hope to discuss this question of multiple scales based on spatial-structuring theories in order to predict the factors affecting the distribution of Tree Sparrows more comprehensively.

Methods

Study area and sampling design

Beijing is situated in the North China Plain. The urban area spreads out in bands of six concentric ring

roads. The climate of the city consists of a hot, humid summer and a cold, windy and dry winter. The average daytime high temperature in January is 1.6 °C, while in July it is 30.8°C. Annual precipitation is around 580 mm.

Eight land use types were selected for analysis, i.e., suburban (SU), low building residential areas (LB), high-rise building residential areas (HB), brick bungalow areas (BB), commercial centers (CC), parks (PA), university campuses (UC) and main roads (MR). In these types, high-rise building residential areas, commercial centers and main roads are three urbanized land use types. With high-rise buildings we mean buildings higher than six floors, most of which were constructed after the 1990s; low buildings means the buildings lower than six floors, mostly constructed before the 1990s. The area within the fifth circle of Beijing was divided into four parts using Tiananmen Square as the center, Chang An Street as the X-axis and the meridian of the Forbidden City (the Dragon line) as the Y-axis. In each part, study sites were selected randomly and, in total, five to ten study sites were selected in the four parts for each land use type (Table 1).

Quantifying the degree of urbanization

We used an “urbanization score” (Liker et al., 2008) to quantify the degree of urbanization of the study sites and their surroundings. The occurrence of three important land cover types for birds, i.e., buildings, paved roads and vegetated areas were scored. One 1 km × 1 km area around each capture site was selected from high-resolution digital aerial photographs. Each 1 km² area was divided into 100 cells (using a 10 × 10 grid with their scores), indicating levels of building cover (0, absent; 1, < 50%; 2, > 50%), the presence of roads (0, absent; 1, present) and vegetation cover (0, absent; 1, < 50%; 2, > 50%) for each cell. From these cell scores the following summary statistics for all seven capture sites were calculated: a mean building density score (potential range 0–2), the number of cells with high-rise building density (> 50% cover; range 0–100), the number of cells with roads (range 0–100), a mean vegetation density score (range 0–2) and the number of cells with high vegetation density (> 50% cover; range 0–100). The PC1 score of a principal components analysis of these five summary scores was taken as the overall “urbanization score” for each site. Principal components analysis extracted only one component,

Table 1 Land use types and their study sites

| Land use types | Study sites |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Suburban area | Xidian and Fangjia villages of Gaobeidian, Xiaoying Village of Daxing District, Baobaoshan, and Nanshuitouzhuang Nanli |
| Park | Zizhuyuan Park, Yuyuantan Park, Botanical Garden, Yuanmingyuan Park, Haidian Park, the Summer Palace, Tiantan Park, and Ditan Park |
| University campus | Peking University, Beijing Normal University, Renmin University of China, Beijing Jiaotong University, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Capital Normal University |
| Low building residential area | Weigongcun Community, Guanyuan, Dongguantou Street, Canjiakou Community |
| High-rise building residential area | Tiantongyun residential quarter, Weibohao Community, Lianhua Community, and Tuanjie Community |
| Commercial center | Xidan, Chengxiang Trade Center, Zhongguancun, Haidian Books Market, Wangfujing Street, and Finance Avenue |
| Main road | Chegongzhuang Avenue, Gulou Avenue, Wukesong, Huayuanqiao, Zhongguancun Avenue, Qinghua West Avenue, and Weigongcun Road |
| Brick bungalow area | Dongdan, Dongguantou Street, West of Lianhua community, and Zhongshan Park |

accounting for 95% of the total variance. From the loading of the original variables, higher urbanization scores can be interpreted as reduced vegetation density and increased building and road densities.

Habitat variables

Ten habitat variables at the local scale (a circle with a 50 m radius around Tree Sparrow-present points) and three landscape factors at three scales (circles with a radius of 200, 400 or 600 m around Tree Sparrow-present points) were selected to investigate the major factors affecting the distribution of Tree Sparrows (Table 2). At a local scale, the habitat factors include areas of high-rise buildings, pavement and weeds, number of conifer and broad-leaved trees, areas of low buildings, number of air conditioners (major nesting sites of urban Tree Sparrows), distance to main roads, number of pedestrians and vehicle flux. At the landscape scale, areas of high-rise buildings, reflecting a degree of modernization, low buildings and vegetation were selected.

Data collection

From January to August 2005, we surveyed the number of Tree Sparrows and local-scale habitat variables during the wintering period (January to March) and the breeding period (April to August). At each study site, we walked along 2–3 roads which traverse the study sites, recording the number of Tree Spar-

rows and the corresponding GPS coordinates of their locations, as used points for a one-hour time period. Randomly selected locations in all study sites were used as control points where their GPS coordinates were recorded. Following each avian survey we assessed local-scale habitat variables in areas using a circle with a 50 m radius, with each used and control point as a center. In total, we surveyed 239 used points and 118 control points in the winter and 226 used points and 126 control points in the breeding period. Areas and distances were measured with the GPS. Using satellite images acquired from Google Earth Web, we digitized the landscape variables for each used and control point using ArcGis and ArcView 3.2 to identify low building areas, high-rise building areas and vegetation areas. Low buildings and high-rise buildings were determined by local surveys according to the corresponding coordinates on the satellite images where they were difficult to be distinguished on the images. We created circles with a radius of 200, 400 or 600 m around each of the used and control points, after which we measured the areas of the three landscape variables using Spatial Analyst, the X-Tool and Geoprocessing extensions of ArcView3.2.

Data analysis

We used one-way ANOVA to compare the number of Tree Sparrows of different land use types and Tukey's Honestly Significant Difference (HSD) post

hoc tests to conduct pairwise comparisons between land use types. The average number of Tree Sparrows (recorded within one hour in each study site) and the urbanization scores of all study sites for one land use type was used as the score for the number of Tree Sparrows and urbanization for each land use type. To analyze whether the number of Tree Sparrows is directly related to the degree of urbanization, we investigated the correlation between the score of the number of Tree Sparrows and the urbanization scores of eight land use types, using Pearson correlation analysis.

We used stepwise elimination logistic regression to analyze the appropriate scales and key factors affecting the distribution of Tree Sparrows. Prior to the logistic regression, we first selected the habitat variables with significant differences between used and control sites using independent *t*-tests or the Mann-Whitney *U*-test. Using these variables, we created a 50 m scale model and three models integrating this scale model with those of a 200, 400 and 600 m scale respectively. The best fitting model was selected using Akaike's information criterion (AIC). All data were standardized to a normal distribution

before logistic regression. The data analyses were performed with SPSS 11.0.

Results

Correlation between number of Tree Sparrows and degree of urbanization

The number of Tree Sparrows differed significantly among land use types (wintering period: one-way ANOVA, $df = 7$, $F = 25.23$, $p < 0.001$; breeding period: $df = 7$, $F = 19.97$, $p < 0.001$). The number of Tree Sparrows was highest in parks and lowest in commercial centers. Pairwise comparisons between land use types showed that the number of birds in commercial centers, high-rise residential areas and main roads were significantly lower than in parks, suburban areas and university campuses, both in the wintering period (Turkey's HSD test, CC vs. PA, CC vs. SU, CC vs. UC, HB vs. PA, HB vs. UC, MR vs. PA, MR vs. UC, MR vs. SU, $p < 0.001$; HB vs. SU, $p = 0.046$) and in the breeding period (Turkey's HSD test, CC vs. PA, CC vs. SU, CC vs. UC, HB vs. PA, HB vs. UC, MR vs. PA, MR vs. UC, MR vs. SU, $p <$

Table 2 Definitions of habitat variables on local and landscape scales

| Scales | Variables | Descriptions of variables |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 50 m | Area of high-rise buildings | Buildings higher than six floors |
| | Area of pavements | Paved landscape including bitumen or cement bricks |
| | Area of weeds | Natural lawn comprising weeds which provide food resources for Tree Sparrows |
| | Number of broad-leaved trees | Broad-leaved trees can provide shelters for Tree Sparrows |
| | Number of conifer trees | Observations indicated conifers may provide alternate roosting sites for Tree Sparrows during winter |
| | Area of low buildings | Low buildings include brick bungalows, ancient buildings and the buildings lower than six floors. These buildings provide nest sites for Tree Sparrows |
| | Number of air conditioners | Air conditioners installed on the exterior of buildings can be used as nest sites by Tree Sparrows |
| | Distance to main roads | Roads comprising of more than three lanes of traffic |
| | Number of pedestrians | Pedestrians passing the study site over a 10-min duration |
| | Vehicle flux | Moving cars, motorbikes, trucks etc. passing the study sites over a 10-min duration |
| 200 m, 400 m, 600 m | High-rise buildings (HB) | Area percentage of buildings higher than six floors in a circle area around the Tree Sparrow present points |
| | Low buildings (LB) | Area percentage of buildings lower than six floors in a circle area around the Tree Sparrow present points |
| | Vegetation (VE) | Area percentage of vegetation in a circle area around the Tree Sparrow present points |

0.001; HB vs. SU, $p = 0.013$) (Fig. 1).

The number of Tree Sparrows was negatively correlated with urbanization scores in both the wintering and breeding periods (wintering period: $n = 8$, $r = -0.832$, $p = 0.010$; breeding period: $n = 8$, $r = -0.863$, $p = 0.006$) (Fig. 2).

Habitat factors affecting distribution of Tree Sparrows

Within four models of the wintering period, the AIC was lowest at the $50\text{ m} \times 200\text{ m}$ scale, suggesting this scale to be the most suitable for predicting environmental factors affecting Tree Sparrow abundance. The number of conifer trees and pedestrians are the two major factors on the 50 m scale, while areas of high-rise buildings and vegetation were the predominant factors on the 200 m scale (Table 3). In comparison to used points, the number of conifer trees and area percentage of vegetation was significantly lower in control points (independent t -test $p < 0.001$), indicating these two factors are advantageous in the distribution of Tree Sparrows. In contrast, the number of pedestrians and area percentage of high-rise buildings in used points were significantly lower compared to control points (Independent t -test $p < 0.001$). This indicates that these two factors have a negative effect on Tree Sparrow abundance (Table

4).

During the summer, the $50\text{ m} \times 400\text{ m}$ model resulted in a regression equation with the lowest AIC, thus 400 m provides a suitable landscape scale to predict the distribution of Tree Sparrows during the breeding season. At the 50 m scale, the area of low buildings, the number of coniferous trees and pedestrians are main the factors contributing to Tree Sparrow distribution, while at a 400 m scale the area percentage of high-rise buildings and vegetation remain important habitat variables (Table 3). Within the used points, areas of low buildings, number of coniferous trees and area percentage of vegetation were significantly higher than in control points (independent t -test $p < 0.001$), which indicates these factors are advantageous for the distribution of breeding Tree Sparrows. The area percentage of high-rise buildings in used points was significantly lower than for control points (independent t -test $p < 0.001$), indicating that high-rise buildings remain disadvantageous to breeding Tree Sparrows (Table 4).

Discussion

The Tree Sparrow is considered a species that has adapted to an urban environment (Ruan and Zheng, 1991). Our results however indicate that the degree of urbanization significantly affects Tree Sparrow

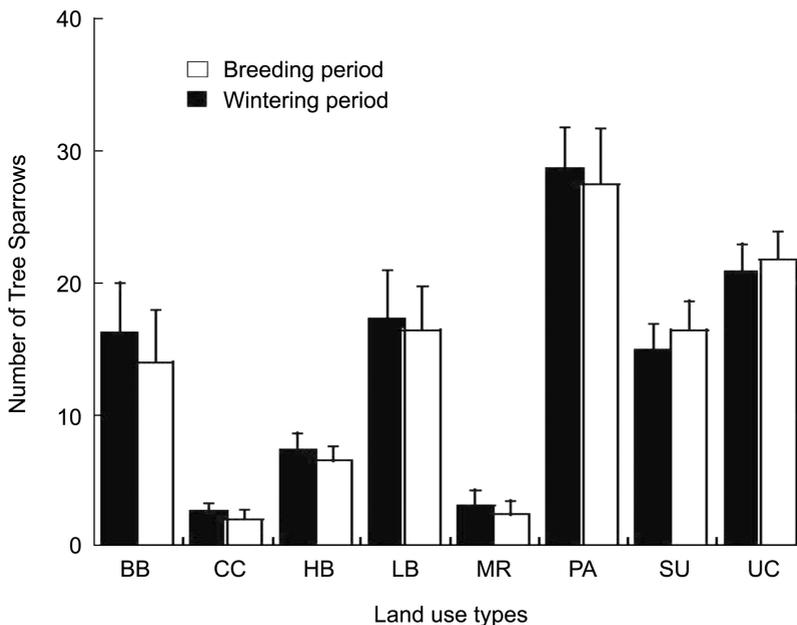


Fig. 1 Number of Tree Sparrows in eight land use types

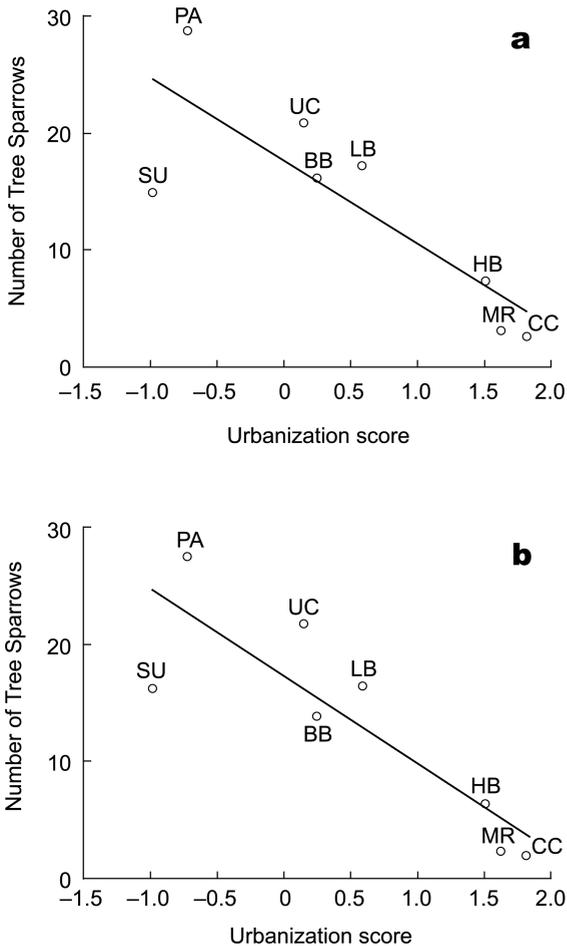


Fig. 2 Relationship between number of Tree Sparrows in different land use types and capture site urbanization scores in breeding period (a) and wintering period (b)

abundance. Its abundance is very low in higher urbanized habitat types such as commercial centers, high-rise residential areas and main roads. In contrast, its abundance is high in habitats with a low degree of urbanization, such as parks, university campus and low building areas. The main components of the diet of nestling and adult Tree Sparrows are, respectively, arthropods and seeds (Kei, 1973; Pinowski and Wieloch, 1973), both of which may be less available in heavily urbanized habitats where vegetation is scarce (McIntyre et al., 2001). Vincent (2005) found that the biomass of House Sparrow broods increased with the extent of vegetation areas around nest sites, which suggests that breeding success may be relatively poor in habitats with low vegetation cover. Therefore, lack of access to vegetation

is a major cause of low Tree Sparrow abundance in highly urbanized areas.

The effect of habitat variables related to food resources and nest sites are evident in the logistic regression analysis. Vegetation has a major effect on sparrow abundance, providing both roost sites and food (especially insect larvae) for adults and nestlings (Pinowska and Pinowski, 1999). At a local scale, the presence of coniferous trees was an important positive factor on sparrow abundance during wintering and breeding periods, because they provide the major roosting sites for Tree Sparrows (Ruan and Zheng, 1991; Fletcher et al., 1992; Pinowska and Pinowski, 1999). Landscape scale analysis also indicates that the total vegetation area within both the 200 m and 400 m circles also affected the distribution of Tree Sparrows positively in both periods.

The number of birds was negatively affected by factors of urbanization, especially the number of pedestrians and high-rise buildings. Prior to the development of high-rise buildings, Tree Sparrows commonly nested in holes within brick bungalows and on the walls of low buildings (Ruan and Zheng, 1991). Modern high-rise buildings are constructed with concrete and covered by glass and metal, substantially reducing the number of available nesting sites. Therefore, large areas of low buildings have a positive effect on sparrow abundance during the breeding season while high-rise buildings had a negative effect in both seasons. Similar results have been reported for passerine species in Colorado, where vegetation has a positive effect on the distribution of the species and urban landscape had a negative effect (Haire et al., 2000).

Commercial centers and main roads are unsuitable for Tree Sparrows due to high volumes of people and vehicles, large areas of high-rise buildings and a lack of suitable conditions for the inhabitation of Tree Sparrows such as trees and low buildings. In contrast, suburban areas, parks and bungalow areas provide suitable living conditions for them, such as high abundance of holes and vegetation. University campuses and low building residential areas provide more suitable habitats for sparrows as compared to commercial centers and high-rise buildings. A recent plant species survey within urban areas of Beijing (Meng and Ouyang, 2004) found parks, university campuses and low building areas had the highest species diversity, containing over 50% of the total number of plant species within the fifth circle road. University campuses are suitable for Tree Sparrow

Table 3 Parameters of obtained equations of logistic regressions on different scales in winter and summer

| Variables | Scales (m) | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Winter | | | | Summer | | | |
| | 50 m | 50 m × 200 m | 50 m × 400 m | 50 m × 600 m | 50 m | 50 m × 200 m | 50 m × 400 m | 50 m × 600 m |
| Intercept | -0.367 | -0.030 | 0.277 | 2.780 | -0.895 | -0.811 | -0.714 | 0.599 |
| Area of low buildings | 1.194 | | | | 2.874 | | 1.628 | 2.267 |
| Number of conifer trees | 1.959 | 2.648 | 1.889 | 1.494 | 1.521 | | 2.574 | 2.456 |
| Pedestrians | -5.156 | -3.550 | -2.903 | | -4.188 | | -8.178 | |
| Vehicle flux | -0.687 | | | | -4.295 | -4.147 | | -4.419 |
| Area Percentage of high-rise buildings | | -3.498 | -1.380 | -6.763 | | | -1.891 | -0.921 |
| Area Percentage of vegetation | | -1.247 | | | | | -1.610 | |
| AIC | 97.446 | 68.332 | 89.378 | 95.603 | 68.706 | 76.618 | 66.947 | 69.643 |

Table 4 The mean values of habitat factors and the difference-significant values of factors between used and control points

| Habitat variables | Wintering period | | | Breeding period | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| | Used points (n = 239) | Control points (n = 118) | p | Used points (n = 226) | Control points (n = 126) | p |
| | Local scale (50 m) | | | | | |
| Area of high-rise buildings (m ²) | 1732.53 ± 196.03 | 3053.45 ± 387.21 | 0.001** | 1826.04 ± 212.35 | 3132.11 ± 378.32 | 0.002** |
| Area of pavements (m ²) | 2190.42 ± 173.65 | 3469.21 ± 239.27 | < 0.001** | 2226.29 ± 170.84 | 3467.31 ± 238.06 | < 0.001** |
| Area of weeds (m ²) | 156.27 ± 32.71 | 24.38 ± 19.69 | 0.032* | 148.58 ± 30.29 | 27.80 ± 20.62 | 0.031* |
| Number of conifer trees | 30.73 ± 4.27 | 13.07 ± 1.37 | 0.001** | 32.18 ± 3.09 | 11.04 ± 1.03 | < 0.001** |
| Number of broad-leaved trees | 43.09 ± 2.86 | 31.07 ± 3.01 | 0.003** | 43.82 ± 2.63 | 28.06 ± 2.12 | 0.001** |
| Area of low buildings (m ²) | 928.69 ± 129.81 | 74.09 ± 15.07 | < 0.001** | 856.82 ± 130.11 | 194.28 ± 79.86 | < 0.001** |
| Number of air conditioners | 41.76 ± 5.02 | 25.91 ± 4.07 | 0.024* | 40.38 ± 4.30 | 26.98 ± 3.79 | 0.038* |
| Distance to main roads (m) | 79.05 ± 6.93 | 66.29 ± 12.85 | 0.401 | 78.81 ± 7.33 | 66.16 ± 12.99 | 0.474 |
| Pedestrian | 77.52 ± 13.63 | 522.60 ± 89.23 | < 0.001** | 65.26 ± 3.51 | 506.91 ± 95.37 | < 0.001** |
| Vehicle flux | 39.06 ± 7.08 | 141.01 ± 26.92 | < 0.001** | 46.29 ± 13.25 | 121.18 ± 15.13 | 0.004** |
| Landscape scale (200 m, 400 m, 600 m) | | | | | | |
| LB200 | 0.449 ± 0.031 | 0.254 ± 0.030 | 0.003** | 0.441 ± 0.029 | 0.253 ± 0.018 | 0.006** |
| HB200 | 0.039 ± 0.010 | 0.476 ± 0.039 | 0.002** | 0.117 ± 0.011 | 0.445 ± 0.039 | < 0.001** |
| VE200 | 0.502 ± 0.033 | 0.268 ± 0.044 | < 0.001** | 0.506 ± 0.032 | 0.243 ± 0.044 | < 0.001** |
| LB400 | 0.433 ± 0.027 | 0.325 ± 0.019 | 0.001** | 0.435 ± 0.026 | 0.314 ± 0.021 | 0.001** |
| HB400 | 0.105 ± 0.015 | 0.439 ± 0.033 | 0.001** | 0.117 ± 0.017 | 0.445 ± 0.034 | 0.001** |
| VE400 | 0.452 ± 0.027 | 0.234 ± 0.031 | < 0.001** | 0.440 ± 0.025 | 0.238 ± 0.038 | < 0.001** |
| LB600 | 0.404 ± 0.027 | 0.312 ± 0.018 | 0.012* | 0.407 ± 0.026 | 0.301 ± 0.018 | 0.004** |
| HB600 | 0.135 ± 0.017 | 0.483 ± 0.030 | 0.005** | 0.149 ± 0.017 | 0.487 ± 0.032 | < 0.001** |
| VE600 | 0.456 ± 0.025 | 0.203 ± 0.031 | < 0.001** | 0.441 ± 0.023 | 0.209 ± 0.038 | < 0.001** |

Note: **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05

requirements because these contain a high proportion of vegetation, as well as hollows in low buildings. Similarly, low building residential areas, constructed mainly in the 1980s, provide many available nesting holes and abundant vegetation for sparrows.

Our results indicate that habitat factors on both local and landscape scales affect the distribution of urban Tree Sparrows. During the winter, landscape factors within a 200 m radius play an important role, while during the summer a 400 m radius is more crucial to the distribution of this species. This pattern follows an increased level of living resource requirements, i.e. food and nesting sites during the breeding periods. As living resource requirements increase, the scale of the landscape used by this bird would also increase. Pan and Zheng (2003) estimated the winter home range of Tree Sparrows be around a 100-m radius, while the summer home range is estimated to be 300 m (Field and Anderson, 2004). These data also supports the seasonal increase in scale.

Conclusions

The number of Tree Sparrows declined along urbanization gradients. Highly urbanized areas, such as commercial areas, main roads and high-rise buildings are not fit for inhabitation by Tree Sparrows. With the acceleration of urban development in Beijing, available space for sparrow habitats has become severely reduced. Although Tree Sparrows show some adaptation to the human environments, they appear unable to adapt to the overly rapid speed of urban development, which results in a decline in essential resources such as vegetation. Thus in the urbanization process, the conservation of vegetation with high species diversity in newly constructed high-rise residential areas and preserving some hollows on the surface of high-rise buildings are essential ways to provide enough food and nest site resources for Tree Sparrows.

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城市化对麻雀数量与分布的影响——以北京为例

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摘要: 随着中国各地城市化进程的加快, 城市中麻雀 (*Passer montanus*) 的生存可能受到食物和栖息地缺乏的影响。我们以北京为例研究了城市化对麻雀数量和分布的影响。结果表明: 麻雀的丰富度与城市化分数呈显著负相关, 高层居民区、商业中心以及主干道两侧的麻雀丰富度显著较低, 而公园、校园、低层居民区以及城郊区的麻雀丰富度显著较高; 50 m尺度内针叶树的数量和硬化地面积以及200 m尺度内高层建筑和植被面积是影响冬季麻雀分布的主要环境因子; 50 m尺度内的低层建筑面积、针叶树数量、硬化地面积以及400 m尺度的高层建筑和植被面积是影响繁殖期麻雀分布的主要环境因子。以上结果表明尽管麻雀是一种适应人类环境的鸟类, 然而高度城市化的区域不适合麻雀的栖息。我们建议将城市鸟类的栖息纳入未来的生态城市规划中。

关键词: 城市化, 麻雀 (*Passer montanus*), 丰富度, 分布, 北京