

**Chemical:** Acaricides viz., tetradifon, chlorbenzilate, dicofol/ kelthane, can be used to kill phytophagous mites in all stage of development.

**Biological:** Some of the predatory mites and insects (coccinellids, *Scolothrips indicus*, *Chrysopa*) produce effective control.

## **BIRDS**

### **1. House Crow, *Corvus splendens*, Corvidae, Passeriformes**

It is grey and has black and grey wings with a black area on the throat and the forehead. It is omnivorous and feed on dead rats, carrion, kitchen scraps, locusts, termites, the eggs of other birds and the ripening grains of maize and fruits. Crow are particularly attracted to maize when it is exposed on the cob. They are often seen in flocks in maize and other fields.

**Management:** Hanging a dead crow on the top of a pole can effectively be used as a scarecrow. Maize cobs can be protected by wrapping one or two of the nearby leaves around them. A large-wire gauze cage, 2x1x1 metres having on one side a converging entrance, can be used as a trap for crows if some attractive food is kept inside.

### **2. Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis*, Sturnidae, Passeriformes**

It is a dark- brown bird, with a bright yellow bill, its legs and patches around the eyes. As it flies, large white patches become visible on the wings. It is omnivorous and feed on insects, earthworms, grasshoppers, fruits and kitchen scraps. They are seen in ripening maize and wheat fields feeding on the grains and their flocks are found alongside those of crows and parakeets.

**Management:** Destroying the nests goes a long way in checking their multiplication.

### **3. House sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, Ploceidae, Passeriformes**

Female is ash to greyish brown above and fulvous ash-white below. The male is 15 cm long, darker above, with blackish streaks on the wings and a black patch on the throat and breast. It has prominent white cheeks. Feeds on grains of maize.

**Management:** Spraying the wheat crop when ears are in the milky stage with Tetra Methyl Thiuram Disulphite (TMTD) 0.6% repels the sparrows and protects the crop.

**Other bird pests** are parrot, baya weaver, peacock, seven sisters.

## **Management of birds**

**Cultural:** Deep sowing of seeds, covering the seeds with soil, pre-and post dating of sowing, growing of trap crops near the main one and use of plant varieties that are physically and gustatorily unattractive to birds.

**Electrified perches:** Bird perches could be electrified to disperse the birds or kill them by regulating the voltage.

**Use of deterrents:** Scare-crow (a human figure erected in the fields) or acetylene gun, a device by which loud bangs are produced by the action of water on calcium carbide; use of bioacoustics, in which bird's stress or alarm signals are recorded and played in