

## **Breeding Biology of the House Crow *Corvus splendens* at Hazara University, Garden Campus, Mansehra, Pakistan**

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**Abstract :** Study on the nesting biology of the House Crow *Corvus splendens* was conducted at Hazara University, Garden Campus (125 acres), Mansehra during the 2013 breeding season (June to September). Details about nest locations, tree characteristics, nest and egg characteristics were recorded. Mean nest density of House Crow was 2.4 nests/ acre. Mean tree and nest height were  $14.8 \pm 6.30$  and  $11.8 \pm 5.42$ m. Mean tree canopy spread  $9.5 \pm 2.48$ m. Mean maximum and minimum nest diameters were  $42.3 \pm 2.08$  and  $39.0 \pm 1.73$ cm respectively while maximum and minimum diameters of nest cup were  $15.6 \pm 1.52$  and  $13.3 \pm 1.15$ cm respectively. Nest depth and nest cup depth were measured  $19.3 \pm 2.08$  and  $8.3 \pm 1.15$ cm respectively. Mean nest weight was  $1.4 \pm 0.24$  kg. Mean clutch size was 4.0 (ranged 1-6). Mean egg length was  $38.6 \pm 0.69$ mm, breadth  $26.0 \pm 0.69$ mm, egg volume  $13.3 \pm 0.83$ cm<sup>3</sup> and egg shape index  $1.42 \pm 0.83$ . Mean egg weight was  $12.3 \pm 0.70$ g. Egg and nest success was calculated 55.1% and 69.0%. Hatchlings and fledglings produced per nest were 2.20 and 1.44 respectively. Main reasons for reproductive failures were unhatched eggs, poor nest construction, bad weather conditions and observer's disturbance.

**Keywords :** breeding, *Corvus splendens*, fledglings, Hazara university, house crow, Mansehra, *populus orientalis*

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