6. DISEASE

Problem associated with disease are preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic.

(1) Vaccination. On the preventive side, the vaccination is the most important. Although vaccination is not practiced as a rule in India, not much of a problem has been encountered by this. The greatest problem is tuberculosis and unfortunately there is no effective vaccine available for the same. Administration of a vaccine that is ordinarly given S.C. if given I.V. is not likely to cause any problem except regarding the vloume. Alternate sites can be selected if volume has to be large.

(2) Diagnosis. The difficulty of physical examination and lack of clinical laboratory facilities are other problems. Even if a developed clinical lab is not available in the zoo, clinical lab (often private) available locally can be made use of. However they should be told about the nature of sample. Otherwise they may confuse with value which is quiet different from their regular samples - human sample and may try to correct.

(3) Administration of drugs. Administration of drugs for wild animals has always been a problem. Dart gun and blow pipes are easy to apply but they are not cost effective. Extensive use of squeeze cages and pole syringes which can make use of disposable syringe should be used. Although pole syringe is a simple device and easy to use, this device is not very popular in our country.

(4) Parasitic burden. Closed environment and limited area will often lead to reinfection/ reinfestation of parasites. Hence periodical inspection of animal and faecal examination should be conducted and a deworming schedule and chart to the effect has to be drawn. Modern broad spectrum anthelmintics and parentral endectocides are really a boon to the zoo veterinarian. The margin of safety of modern deworming drugs is also another advantage.

Editor's Note : Dr. Jacob Cheeran has been associated with Zoo Outreach Organisation for many years. He has served as Special Editor for several veterinary issues. He is a member of the Managing Committee. He has and is associating with us on several cooperative projects.

LITTLE BROWN DOVE'S SIXTH NESTING ON THE SAME SITE

Rajiv Saxena

On 23 August 1995, I again found a Little Brown Dove incubating two white eggs in the nest which was built on an electricity metre in the verandah of my quarter in Morena District of Madhya Pradesh.

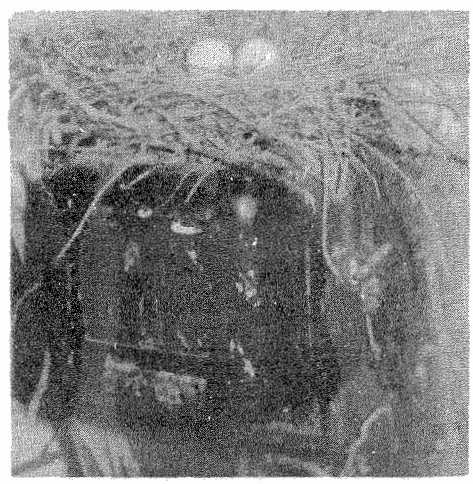
This was the sixth laying of eggs by Little Brown Dove on the metre since I occupied the house in October 1992. The sequence of three layings by this species of dove and one laying by Indian Robin on the same metre has been described elsewhere (Saxena, 1995).

On 28 August, the dove incubated at night also. On earlier days, incubation was done from about 6 am to 7 pm with intermittent absence for feeding. From the same day the male also started incubation, and the incubation by both the par- ents continued up to 5 September. Female was noted to spend more time on the nest than the male. The female had somehow got some hair on her head ruffled, and therefore, could be easily distinguished from the male with the smooth head.

Incubation in the morning was always done by the female with the male sharing the duty for some time during midday and afternoon. This trend continued up to 7 September which was the 16th day of incubation.

On the next two days none of the parents appeared on or around the nest. It seemed that they had abandoned the nest after ascertaining that the eggs would not hatch, most probably due to infertility.

The eggs remained intact with a part of inner fluid becoming solid up to 29 September 1995 when I vacated the house following my transfer from Morena to Gwalior.



Sixth use of nest by Little brown dove

It was concluded that of the six layings only two breedings were successful and that besides natural predators like snakes and lizards and natural calamities like storm, a lot of efforts in breeding can be proved futile due to other factors like infertility of eggs. Similarly, incubation time changes with the hot or cold climate. In the above incident, the climate remained cold with very heavy rains throughout the incubation which may have also adversely affected the incubation process.

REFERENCE

Saxena, R. (1995): Alternate use of nest by Little Brown Dove and Indian Robbin. *Zoos' Print* 10:5:7.

* 853 MIG, Darpan Colony, Thatipur, Gwalior.