Medical/biological Study (observational study)

The Urban Decline of the House Sparrow (Passer domesticus): A Possible Link with Electromagnetic Radiation.

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Aim of study (according to author)

To study whether the population of house sparrows (birds that usually live in the urban environment) is declining in Spain and to evaluate the hypothesis that electromagnetic irradiation from mobile phone antennae is correlated with the decline in the house sparrow population.
Background/further details:
Between October 2002 and May 2006, point transect sampling was performed at 30 points during 40 visits to Valladolid, Spain. At each point, counts of sparrows were carried out and the mean electric field strength was measured (radiofrequencies and microwaves: 1 MHz-3 GHz range).

Endpoint

- number of house sparrows

Exposure

BTS/base station, RF field, microwaves

Exposed system:
animal (species/strain): house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
whole body exposure

Methods

Endpoint/Measurement parameters/Methodology

- number of house sparrows

investigation on living organism

time of investigation: during exposure

Main outcome of study (according to author)

Significant declines were found in the mean bird density over time, and significantly low bird density was revealed in areas with high electric field strength. The data support the hypothesis that electromagnetic fields are associated with the observed decline in the house sparrow population.

(Study character: medical/biological study, observational study, full/main study)

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