

Participate!

The first year of data collection has been an overwhelming success! We here at the WBF Research Foundation are pleased to note the majority of our experimental citizen scientists have renewed their commitment to PROJECT WILDBIRD for the next year.

However, we are still seeking additional participants for this study. To learn more, [log on to www.projectwildbird.org](http://www.projectwildbird.org), and click on "Experimental Details."

Contribute!

All PROJECT WILDBIRD contributors receive regular updates regarding the study from our headquarters, as well as continuous marketing via our website and promotional items.

Imagine your individual or company name prominently displayed every day!

Additionally, the final published study will include a listing of all contributors over the three year term.

To enroll as a contributor, [log on to www.projectwildbird.org](http://www.projectwildbird.org), and click the link "Contribute."

WBF Research Foundation

"Advancing the knowledge of wild bird feeding through scientific research and the study of food and feeder preferences of wild birds across North America"



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PROJECT WILDBIRD



Photo courtesy of Roger Mayhorn, Pilgrims Knob, VA

First Year Study Results:

EXPERIMENTAL PROTOCOL

PROJECT WILDBIRD

is the first continent-wide scientific study examining feed and feeder preferences of wild birds in the US and Canada. Research began on December 21, 2005 and will continue through September 21, 2008.

Questions to be answered by PROJECT WILDBIRD:

- What are the seed preferences of birds that use feeders in the U.S. and Canada?
- Are seed preferences of birds equivalent in different regions of the U.S. and Canada?
- Are seed preferences of birds equivalent at different times of the year?
- What are the feeder preferences of birds in the U.S. and Canada?
- Are there interactions between seed preferences and feeder preferences?

10 seeds are studied in PROJECT WILDBIRD:

- Black Oil Sunflower (BOS)
- Cracked Corn (CC)
- Fine Sunflower Chips (FSC)
- Medium Sunflower Chips (MSC)
- Nyjer® (N)
- Red Milo (RM)
- Safflower (S)
- Striped Sunflower (SS)
- Whole Peanuts (WP)
- White Proso Millet (WPM)

Three feeder styles are being used in this study:
Tubular, Platform and Hopper

Preliminary Results:

- 54,244 birds of 59 species have been recorded
- 36,910 observations have been recorded (5 minutes per)
- 22 experimental citizen scientists collected data from DE, GA, ID, IL, KS, MD, MO, OH, PA, TN, VA and WA

*First year results. Two years of data collection remain. Data noted is as of September 21, 2006.

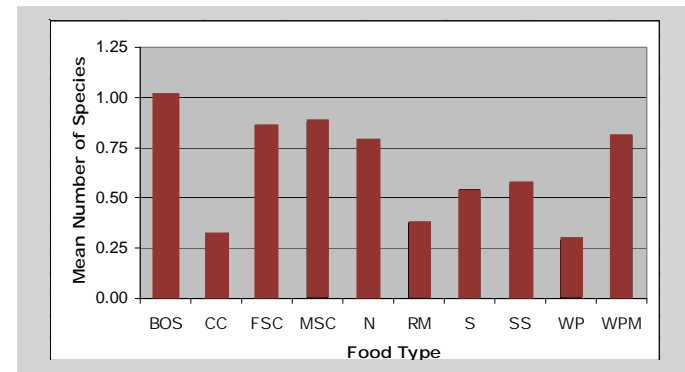
10 most abundant species (listed most to least):

- 1) House Finch
- 2) American Goldfinch
- 3) House Sparrow
- 4) Brown-headed Cowbird
- 5) Northern Cardinal
- 6) Red-winged Blackbird
- 7) Mourning Dove
- 8) Cassin's Finch
- 9) Song Sparrow
- 10) Pine Siskin

Between September 22, 2006 and December 21, 2006:

- 61,645 (or 24,735 additional) 5-minute observations had been entered into the PROJECT WILDBIRD database.
- The number of birds recorded increased 58% to 93,362.

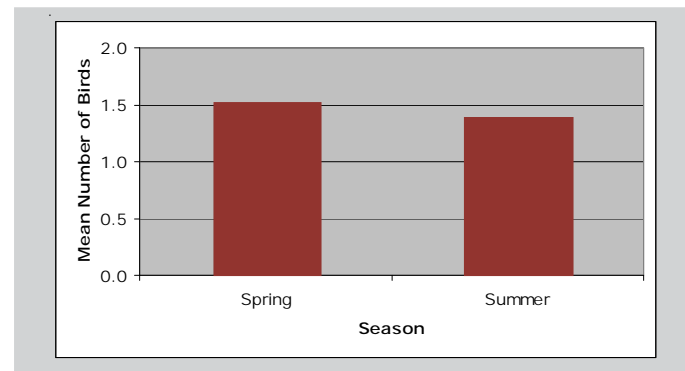
Which seeds are preferred by wild birds?



Early results indicate that black-oil sunflower, fine and medium sunflower chips, Nyjer, and white proso millet are among the most preferred seed types. Further data collection over the next two years will be needed to confirm this initial observation.

Which feeder type is preferred by wild birds?

Early results are inconclusive. Further data collection over the next two years will be needed to determine the answer to this question.



The seasonal data recorded reflected an equivalent number of birds at spring and summer feeders. This appears to refute common anecdotal information that birds do not visit bird feeders during the summer months. Data collected over the next two years will be used to substantiate this observation.