

# Participate!

The second year of data collection has been an overwhelming success! We here at the WBFJ 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.

The information to be publicly available will be in a generalized form via peer reviewed publications. It is anticipated that up to five manuscripts could be submitted for peer review. Possible topics for one manuscript might be *Seed and feeder preferences of birds that use feeders by geographic region and season of the year.*

# Who's Who?

Visit our website at [www.projectwildbird.org](http://www.projectwildbird.org) for a listing of all PROJECT WILDBIRD contributors. You're sure to recognize many of those who proudly support this study.

We also have a section for our media friends. Just click on "Press Releases" for a comprehensive list of releases and vivid photos, all available for download and publication!

## WBFJ 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"*

Phone: (605) 274-6751 • toll free (888) 839-1237

Fax: (605) 275-6697

Website: [www.projectwildbird.org](http://www.projectwildbird.org) • Email: [shays@wbfi.org](mailto:shays@wbfi.org)

1305 N. Tahoe Trail Sioux Falls, SD 57110-6410

Susan M. Hays, CMP Executive Director



# PROJECT WILDBIRD



## Second 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:

- 411,617 bird visits of 94 species have been recorded
- 223,470 5-minute observations of feeders have been made by citizen scientists
- 143 experimental citizen scientists collected data from 35 US states: AR, AZ, CA, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MT, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, WV and 3 Canadian provinces (BC, ON, NB)

*\*Year two results. One year of data collection remains. Data noted is as of September 21, 2007.*

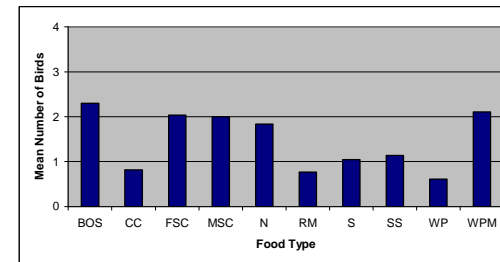
## 10 most abundant species (listed most to least):

- 1) House Sparrow
- 2) House Finch
- 3) American Goldfinch
- 4) Brown-headed Cowbird
- 5) Northern Cardinal
- 6) Black-capped Chickadee
- 7) Mourning Dove
- 8) Pine Siskin
- 9) Common Grackle
- 10) Purple Finch

## Quick Stats:

- 1,880 individuals have signed up for PROJECT WILDBIRD as of September 22, 2007.
- Experimental approach has 143 participants from 35 US states and 3 provinces in Canada. 15 experimental citizen scientists have joined since the beginning of summer 2007.
- Experimental citizen scientists have performed 5,587 45-minute observations and the number of birds recorded has increased dramatically since winter 2005.

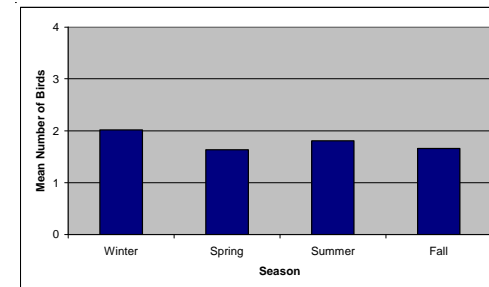
## Which seeds are preferred by wild birds?



Year 2 results indicate that Black-Oil Sunflower, Fine and Medium Sunflower Chips, Nyjer®, and White Proso Millet are among the most preferred seed types. An additional year of data will be necessary to verify these results.

## Which feeder type is preferred by wild birds?

Early results are inconclusive. Further data collection over the next year will provide the definitive answer to this question.



Different species of birds visiting feeders in different seasons will influence the combination of seeds one should offer in order to attract the greatest diversity of birds. A third year of PROJECT WILDBIRD data collection will allow us to identify the most appropriate food and feeder combinations to offer for each geographic region during each season of the year.