



PROJECT WILDBIRD

A Study on Food and Feeder Preferences of Wild Birds in the United States and Canada

PROJECT WILDBIRD is a landmark study of seed and feeder preferences of wild birds in the United States and Canada. We are inviting everyone who feeds birds to participate in the study by completing a survey of your backyard feeding experiences. The survey asks people about why they feed birds and what will make the bird feeding experience better. It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. By tallying the surveys completed, we will have a better understanding of how the bird feeding experience can be enhanced.

Please send the completed survey to the following address:

Dr. David J. Horn
Department of Biology
Millikin University
1184 W. Main Street
Decatur, IL 62522

Your Views on Wild Bird Feeding

YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Please note: All required fields are marked with an asterisk*

First Name: *	
Last Name: *	
Address: *	
Address (cont):	
Address (cont):	
City:*	
County:	
State:*	
Country:	
Postal Code:*	
Phone:	
Second Phone:	
Email Address:	

NUMBER OF YEARS FEEDING BIRDS:

1. How many years have you been feeding birds in your lifetime? (Round to the nearest year)

2. How many years have you been feeding birds at the above address? (Round to the nearest year)

ABILITY TO IDENTIFY BIRDS:

3. How familiar are you with the **common** birds found in your area?

I can identify to species:

- A. < 50% of the common birds that I see
- B. 51 - 80% of the common birds that I see
- C. 81 - 95% of the common birds that I see
- D. 96 - 100% of the common birds that I see

4. How familiar are you with the **uncommon** birds found in your area?

I can identify to species:

- A. < 50% of the uncommon birds that I see
- B. 51 - 80% of the uncommon birds that I see
- C. 81 - 95% of the uncommon birds that I see
- D. 96 - 100% of the uncommon birds that I see

5. How familiar are you with the **rare** birds found in your area?

I can identify to species:

- A. < 50% of the rare birds that I see
- B. 51 - 80% of the rare birds that I see
- C. 81 - 95% of the rare birds that I see
- D. 96 - 100% of the rare birds that I see

6. What is your gender?

- A. Male
- B. Female

7. What is your age group?

- A. < 15
- B. 15 - 24
- C. 25 - 34
- D. 35 - 44
- E. 45 - 54
- F. 55 - 64
- G. 65 +

8. What birds visit your feeders? **(Check all that apply)**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. American Goldfinch | <input type="checkbox"/> M. House Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. American Tree Sparrow | <input type="checkbox"/> N. House Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Black-capped Chickadee | <input type="checkbox"/> O. Lesser Goldfinch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Blue Jay | <input type="checkbox"/> P. Mourning Dove |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E. Brown-headed Cowbird | <input type="checkbox"/> Q. Northern Cardinal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F. Carolina Chickadee | <input type="checkbox"/> R. Pine Siskin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G. Chipping Sparrow | <input type="checkbox"/> S. Purple Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> H. Common Grackle | <input type="checkbox"/> T. Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I. Common Redpoll | <input type="checkbox"/> U. Red-winged Blackbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> J. Dark-eyed Junco | <input type="checkbox"/> V. Song Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K. Downy Woodpecker | <input type="checkbox"/> W. Tufted Titmouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> L. Evening Grosbeak | <input type="checkbox"/> X. White-breasted Nuthatch |

If there are others, please enter them in the blank boxes below.

9. What birds would you like to attract to your feeders? **(Check all that apply)**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. American Goldfinch | <input type="checkbox"/> M. House Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Baltimore Oriole | <input type="checkbox"/> N. Indigo Bunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Black-capped Chickadee | <input type="checkbox"/> O. Lesser Goldfinch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Black-headed Grosbeak | <input type="checkbox"/> P. Northern Cardinal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E. Bullock's Oriole | <input type="checkbox"/> Q. Pine Siskin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F. Carolina Chickadee | <input type="checkbox"/> R. Purple Finch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G. Carolina Wren | <input type="checkbox"/> S. Red-bellied Woodpecker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> H. Common Redpoll | <input type="checkbox"/> T. Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I. Dark-eyed Junco | <input type="checkbox"/> U. Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> J. Downy Woodpecker | <input type="checkbox"/> V. Ruby-throated Hummingbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K. Eastern Bluebird | <input type="checkbox"/> W. Tufted Titmouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> L. Evening Grosbeak | <input type="checkbox"/> X. White-breasted Nuthatch |

If there are others, please enter them in the blank boxes below.

FEEDING HABITS OF THE SURVEYOR:

10. Why do you feed birds? **(Check all that apply)**

- A. Hobby/Fun
- B. Therapy/Relaxation
- C. As part of the landscaping
- D. Brings nature and beauty into the area
- E. Learning about bird behavior and identifying new species
- F. Maintain a list of bird species seen in my yard
- G. Enjoy the sound of birds in the yard
- H. Want to help the birds
- I. As an educational experience for children
- J. Other

11a. Are you having a good experience feeding birds in your yard?

- A. Yes
- B. No

11b. If no, what types of frustrations have you had feeding birds? **(Check all that apply)**

- A. Birds are messy
- B. Feed is messy
- C. It is too difficult or inconvenient to clean feeders
- D. It is too difficult or inconvenient to fill feeders
- E. It is too difficult to purchase feeders and food locally
- F. Attracts pests (insects, rodents, squirrels, etc.)
- G. Attracts undesirable birds
- H. Too expensive
- I. Would like to attract a greater number of birds
- J. Would like to attract more species of birds
- K. Other

12. What do you consider to be the most common "**undesirable**" animal visiting your feeders?

- A. Bear
- B. Blackbirds (i.e., Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, etc.)
- C. Chipmunk
- D. Deer
- E. Opossum
- F. Raccoon
- G. Rats and Mice
- H. Sparrows (i.e., House Sparrow)
- I. Squirrel
- J. Other

13. How important are devices for discouraging "**undesirable**" animals? (i.e., squirrel-proof feeders, etc.)

- A. Very important
- B. Important
- C. Not important

14. What could make your bird feeding experience better? (**Check all that apply**)

- A. Less expensive products (i.e., bird feeders, bird food)
- B. Better feeder design (i.e., easier to clean, easier to fill, larger seed capacity)
- C. Better seed storage products (i.e., metal and plastic bins)
- D. Cleaner seed (i.e., less debris in the seed)
- E. No pests attracted to feeding (i.e., squirrel proof feeders)
- F. Less mess below the feeder (i.e., seed hulls)
- G. Attracting a greater number of birds
- H. Attracting more species of birds
- I. Other

15a. During what seasons of the year do you feed birds? (**Check all that apply**)

- A. Fall
- B. Winter
- C. Spring
- D. Summer

15b. If you do not feed birds in all seasons, why don't you feed birds year round?

- A. I am not around to watch birds all seasons of the year
- B. Too expensive
- C. Too time consuming to maintain feeders
- D. Birds can find food naturally for some periods of the year
- E. Other

16. What feeder setup do you use? **(Check all that apply)**

- A. Hanging from a tree or other vegetation
- B. Hanging from a hook mounted against a building, from a deck, or extending from a pole (i.e., Shepherd's Hook)
- C. Pole mount in my yard
- D. Window mount
- E. Other

17. What features are most important to you in the feeders you choose? **(Check all that apply)**

- A. Birds use the feeder
- B. Bird feeder looks nice
- C. Bird feeder is easy to fill
- D. Bird feeder is easy to clean
- E. Bird feeder has a large capacity
- F. Bird feeder is resistant to undesirable species (i.e., squirrels, unwanted birds)
- G. Other

18. What features are most important to you in the seeds you choose? **(Check all that apply)**

- A. Birds eat the seed
- B. Seed is not messy
- C. Seed only attracts species I am interested in
- D. Seed lasts a long time
- E. Other

19. What features are most important to you in the suet you choose? **(Check all that apply)**

- A. Birds eat the suet
- B. Suet is not messy
- C. Suet only attracts species I am interested in
- D. Suet lasts a long time
- E. Other
- F. I don't feed suet

20. What features are most important to you in the mealworms you choose? **(Check all that apply)**

- A. Birds eat the mealworms
- B. Mealworms are not messy
- C. Mealworms only attracts species I am interested in
- D. Mealworms last a long time
- E. Other
- F. I don't feed mealworms

21. What features are most important to you in the fruit you choose? **(Check all that apply)**

- A. Birds eat the fruit
- B. Fruit is not messy
- C. Fruit only attracts species I am interested in
- D. Fruit lasts a long time
- E. Other
- F. I don't feed fruit

22. What features are most important to you in the nectar you choose? **(Check all that apply)**

- A. Birds drink the nectar
- B. Nectar is not messy
- C. Nectar only attracts species I am interested in
- D. Nectar lasts a long time
- E. Other
- F. I don't feed nectar

23. How often do you refill your feeder?

- A. At least daily
- B. At least weekly
- C. At least monthly
- D. At least yearly
- E. Never

24a. Do you immediately refill an empty feeder?

- A. Yes
- B. No

24b. If no, why do you leave your feeder empty?

- A. Hard to fill
- B. Seed lasts longer
- C. Too expensive to fill regularly
- D. Don't remember to fill it
- E. Don't have time to fill it
- F. Advisories from state and local agencies
- G. Excessive clean-up required
- H. Feeding attracts rodents, insects or other undesirable species
- I. Other

25a. How often do you clean your feeders?

- A. At least daily
- B. At least weekly
- C. At least monthly
- D. At least yearly
- E. Never

25b. If you do not clean your feeder, why don't you clean your feeder?

- A. Does not need to be cleaned
- B. Too hard to clean
- C. Don't remember to clean
- D. Don't have time to clean
- E. Other

26. Where do you feed birds? **(Check all that apply)**

- A. Backyard
- B. Front yard
- C. Side yard
- D. Deck
- E. Other

27. What room of your home do you primarily like to watch your bird feeders from?

- A. Kitchen
- B. Living Room
- C. Dining Room
- D. Bedroom
- E. Den
- F. Front Porch
- G. Back Porch
- H. Deck
- I. Other

28. What time of day do you most frequently watch the birds feeding?

- A. 6:00 am - 9:00 am (Early Morning)
- B. 9:01 am - 12:00 pm (Late Morning)
- C. 12:01 pm - 3:00 pm (Mid-Day)
- D. 3:01 pm - 6:00 pm (Afternoon)
- E. 6:01 pm - 9:00 pm (Early Evening)
- F. Other

29. Where do you primarily shop for bird feeders?

- A. Specialty bird feeding store
- B. Garden center
- C. Hardware store
- D. Grocery store
- E. Discount store
- F. Other

30. Where do you primarily shop for bird food?

- A. Specialty bird feeding store
- B. Garden center
- C. Hardware store
- D. Grocery store
- E. Discount store
- F. Other

31a. Has your state, city, or neighborhood association ever discouraged you from feeding birds?

- A. Yes
- B. No

31b. If yes, explain:

32. In addition to feeding birds, what else do you do to attract and enjoy birds in your backyard? **(Check all that apply)**

- A. Special plantings (i.e., trees, shrubs, flowers)
- B. Water (i.e., pond, fountain, bird bath)
- C. Bird house
- D. Other

33a. Do you have pets?

- A. Yes
- B. No

33b. If yes, what types of pets do you have and do they go outside?

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Dog | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Cat | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Other mammal (i.e., guinea pig, rabbit) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Other Mammal:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Reptile (i.e., turtle, snake) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E. Amphibian (i.e., frog, newt) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F. Fish (i.e., goldfish, tropical fish) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G. Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Other:

34. Besides bird feeding, in which of the following hobbies do you participate?

(Check all that apply)

- A. Observation of other wildlife (i.e., insects, spiders, fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals)
- B. Gardening and landscaping for wildlife
- C. Nature photography
- D. Traveling to natural areas (i.e., refuges, parks)
- E. Reading about nature

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE YARD AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

35. How would you describe the neighborhood immediately surrounding your feeders in terms of housing density?

- A. Rural
- B. Suburban/Rural Mix
- C. Suburban
- D. Suburban/Urban Mix
- E. Urban

36. Please mark all habitats present within 0.8 km (0.5 miles) of your feeders. Record a habitat type only if it totals 0.4 ha (1 acre) or more. **(Check all that apply)**

- A. Deciduous woods
- B. Evergreen woods
- C. Mixed deciduous/Evergreen woods
- D. Desert or Scrub
- E. Grassland
- F. Agricultural
- G. Developed areas
- H. Freshwater
- I. Saltwater
- J. Other

Describe:

37. What is the population of your city or town?

- A. 1 - 5,000
- B. 5,001 - 25,000
- C. 25,001 - 100,000
- D. > 100,000

Thank you for your participation in PROJECT WILDBIRD!

Please send the completed survey to the following address:

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Millikin University
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