



Environmental Science: Bird Feeding and Habitat Loss

Paper citation: Westrich J and Garrity A (2016). Bird Feeding Experiment: Do Wild Birds Feed in a More Wooded or Exposed Area?. J Emerging Investigators 79: 1-4

Paper questions

In reading through the assigned papers, please answer the following questions:

1. What makes this research important and relevant to you?
2. What do the authors state as their hypothesis in the introduction?
3. The authors go on to conclude that habitat loss plays a significant role in bird feeding habits. Do you think that their data on exposed/wooded areas are comparable to habitat loss?
4. What **statistical measures** were compared to determine statistical significance? With Confidence Intervals, what does it mean if zero is included in the calculated range?
5. The authors show that their studies from 2011 and 2012 have differences in significance. Looking at **Figure 1**, is there any particular trial that seems unusual? Can this explain any differences in the results?
6. Do the authors present any alternative explanations about why the significance may have been different?
7. What are some shortcomings of this paper? Any other questions that you would want answered to better understand the impact of global warming and habitat loss on birds?
8. List some more variables that could be tested in a follow-up study: