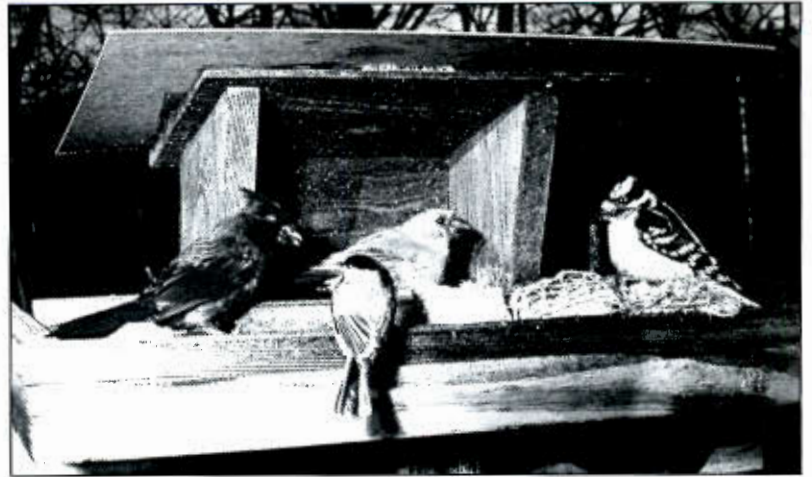


A pair of Northern Cardinals, a Black-capped Chickadee, and a Downy Woodpecker use a feeder in Texico, Illinois, Jefferson County. Northern Cardinal and Black-capped Chickadee were among the 10 most common birds seen at feeders during the authors' research. Photo by Bowie Hannah.



may have been less popular in our study was the means in which it was provided to birds. Generally, suet is provided in a suet feeder around a tree as opposed to a platform feeder on the ground. Moreover, woodpeckers, a group of birds with a high affinity for suet (Horn 1999), were not common in our study.

Results from this study can be used to make more informed decisions about the food types to pro-

vide birds during the winter. The most common species in our study preferred black-oil sunflower and whole peanuts followed by millet, and then suet. Future studies should examine how temperature influ-

ences abundance of birds and their food choice during prolonged cold spells, and long periods with snow cover. In addition, studies should compare food consumption and choice in each of the four seasons.

Figure 1:

Scatter plot of the total number of individuals of all bird species combined observed each monitoring session at sunflower feeders with temperature at six houses in northeastern Illinois during the winter of 2002.

