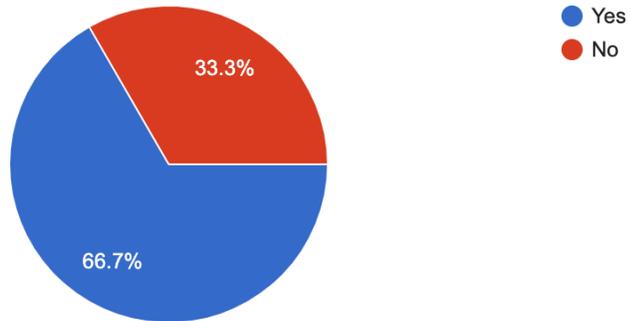


Public Perceptions and Attitudes Towards Backyard Bird Feeding

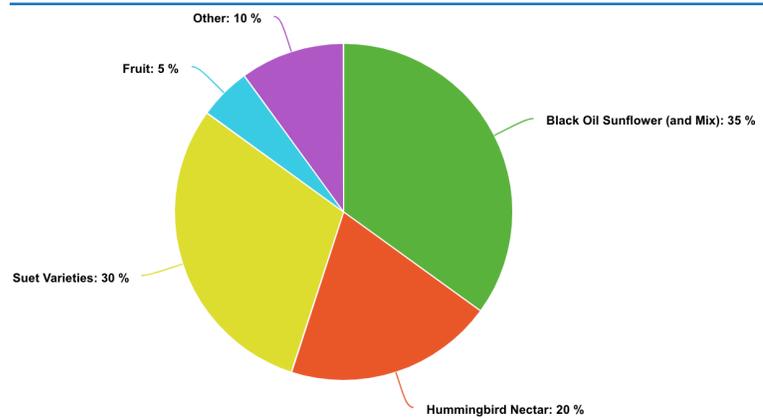
Interview Questionnaire

Question 1: Do you have bird feeder/s in your yard that you routinely fill (even for only a part of the year)?



Question 2: How many different types of feeders (if you feed), do you utilize? For example, 1 black oil sunflower seed, 2 suet feeders, 3 hummingbird nectar feeders, 1 nyjer thistle feeder, etc...

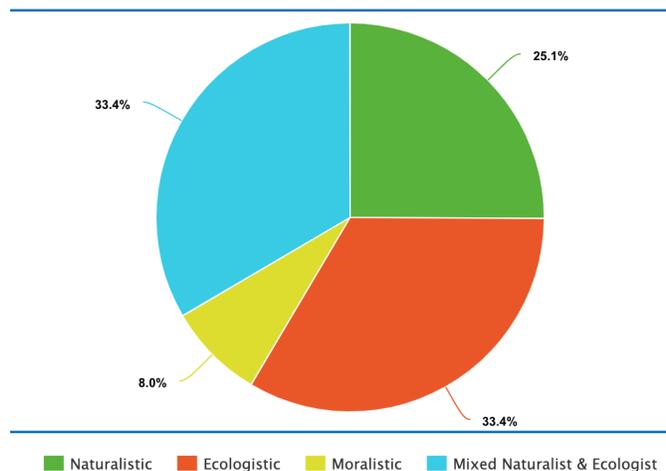
- Out of all of the responses, 16.6% of participants do not have any sort of bird feeder.
- Of those who do put out feeders, 35% of participants



put out black oil sunflower seed (and mixes including these seeds primarily), 20% put out hummingbird feeders, 30% have suet block varieties, 5% put out fruit feeders, and 10% have other sorts of feeders (which includes specialized nut or corn feeders). None of the participants put up Nyjer thistle feeders.

Question 3: What are your primary reasons to feed or to not feed the birds in your community (ie: beauty, ecological function, not permitted to, disease spread, etc...)?

- Out of those who do not feed the birds, 60% could not feed the birds due to their housing situation (renters, 2nd floor tenants, or HOA does not allow for feeding), 40% did not feed the birds in preference

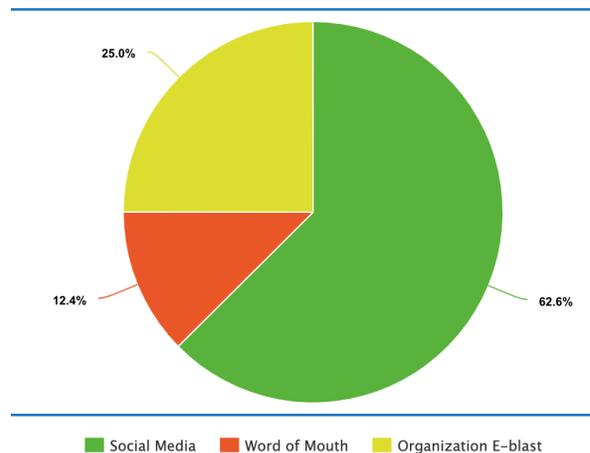


of providing natural habitat and food sources instead.

- Of those who do feed the birds, 33.3% had an ecologicistic attitude towards bird feeding. They wanted to promote biodiversity and to positively impact the environment.
- 33.3% had a dual attitude of ecologicistic and naturalistic. They wanted to not only promote positive environmental impacts, but also enjoy the act of bird or wildlife watching.
- 25% had a naturalistic attitude towards bird feeding. Their primary reason for feeding birds was to watch and experience the wildlife up-close.
- 8% had a moralistic attitude towards feeding the birds. They wanted to promote the bird's welfare and found it to be an ethically responsible action to take.

Question 4: In 2020, there was a disease outbreak in eastern US bird populations. Scientists asked the public to remove all bird feeders to reduce disease spread while they worked to determine the cause of the disease. In September 2021, this recommendation was lifted as cases fell and feeders weren't found to be the primary culprit. Were you aware of this issue (regardless of if you feed birds or not)? If so, where did you hear about it from?

- 66.6% of participants were aware of the issue. 90% of those who did hear about it removed their bird feeders or took personal action. 10% of those who did hear about it kept their feeders up or did not take personal action.
- Out of those who did hear about it, 71.4% heard about it through social media platforms. 28.5% heard about it through bird-friendly and wildlife organizations email notifications. 14.2% heard about it through word of mouth.
- 33.3% of participants were not aware of the issue.

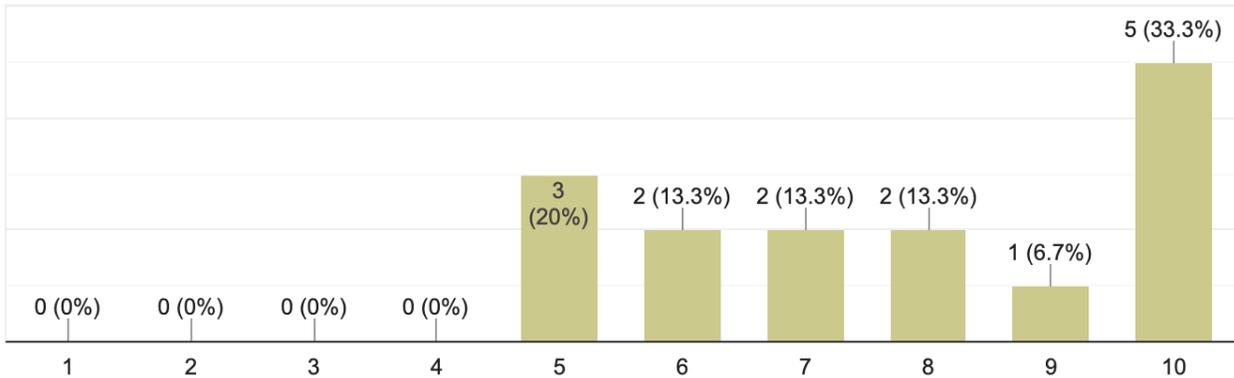


Question 5: List 10 bird species (does not have to be songbirds) that you see commonly in your community at any point throughout the year. If you cannot list 10, please list as many as possible

- 46.6% of participants could name 10+ individual bird species that frequent their community. 53.3% of participants could name between 6-9 individual bird species that frequent their community.
- 73% of participants listed seeing the Northern Cardinal, 66.6% mentioned the crow, 60% mentioned the American Goldfinch and the Blue Jay, 53.3% mentioned the Red-tailed Hawk and the American Robin.

- Outliers (birds mentioned only once) include the American Woodcock, Black Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Killdeer, and the Bald Eagle.

Question 6: On a scale of 1-10, how important do you think it is to feed birds as a method of conserving native bird species. (see figure 2 below)



Question 7: In your opinion, rank the following personal, at-home actions on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is least important and 5 is most important, for protecting local bird populations. (see figure 3 below)

