

# Diet Preference vs. Location of Feeding

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# Hypothesis

Birds that prefer seeds and fruits eat from the feeders, while birds that prefer insects or worms feed on the ground or trees.



# Methods

We observed each of the feeders, as well as the ground in Centennial Woods, for about 10 minutes each. We recorded each species of bird that stopped at the different feeders (green, red, the block, or the ground) and the number of individuals for each species that visited the feeder.

# Data

## **Black Capped Chickadees**

- Green feeder: 31
- Red feeder: 0
- Block feeder: 6
- Ground / tree: 0

## **Hairy Woodpecker**

- Green feeder: 0
- Red feeder: 2
- Block feeder: 0
- Ground / tree: 1

## **Downy Woodpecker:**

- Green feeder: 0
- Red feeder: 0
- Block feeder: 1
- Ground / tree: 0

## **Cardinal**

- Green feeder: 0
- Red feeder: 0
- Block feeder: 0
- Ground / tree: 1

## **Fox Sparrow**

- Green feeder: 0
- Red feeder: 0
- Block feeder: 0
- Ground/tree: 5

## **Tufted Titmouse**

- Green feeder: 2
- Red feeder: 0
- Block feeder: 1
- Ground/tree: 0

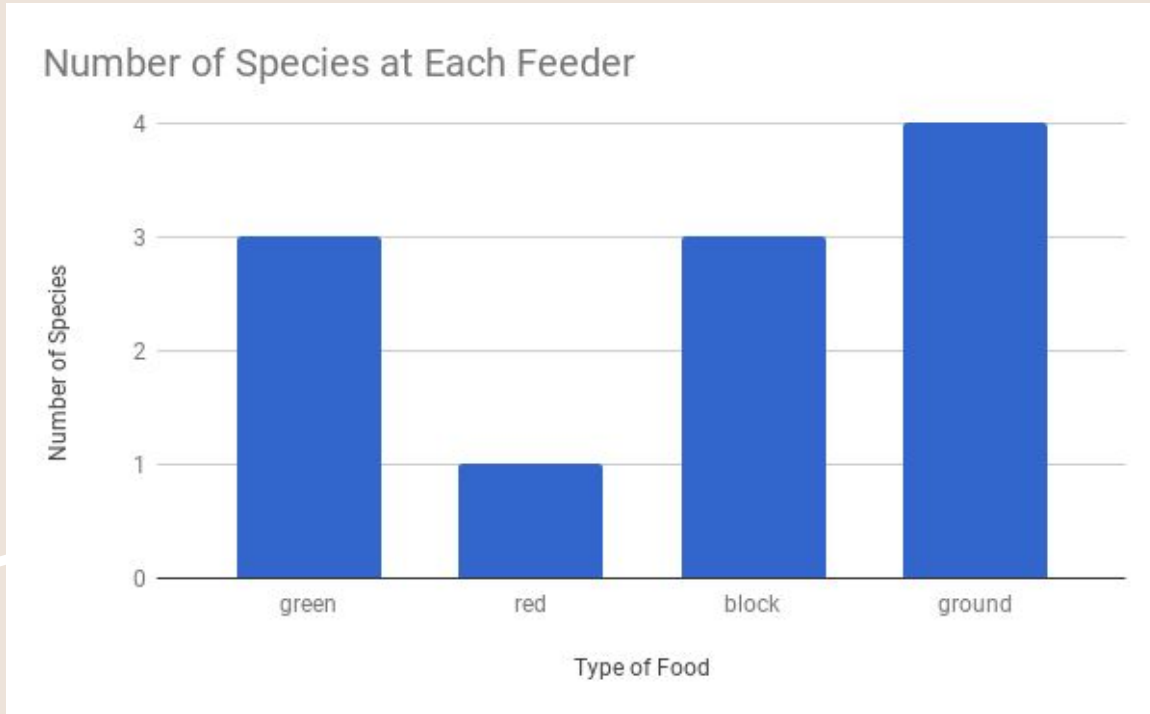
## **American Robin:**

- Green feeder: 0
- Red feeder: 0
- Block feeder: 0
- Ground/tree: 2

## **American Goldfinch**

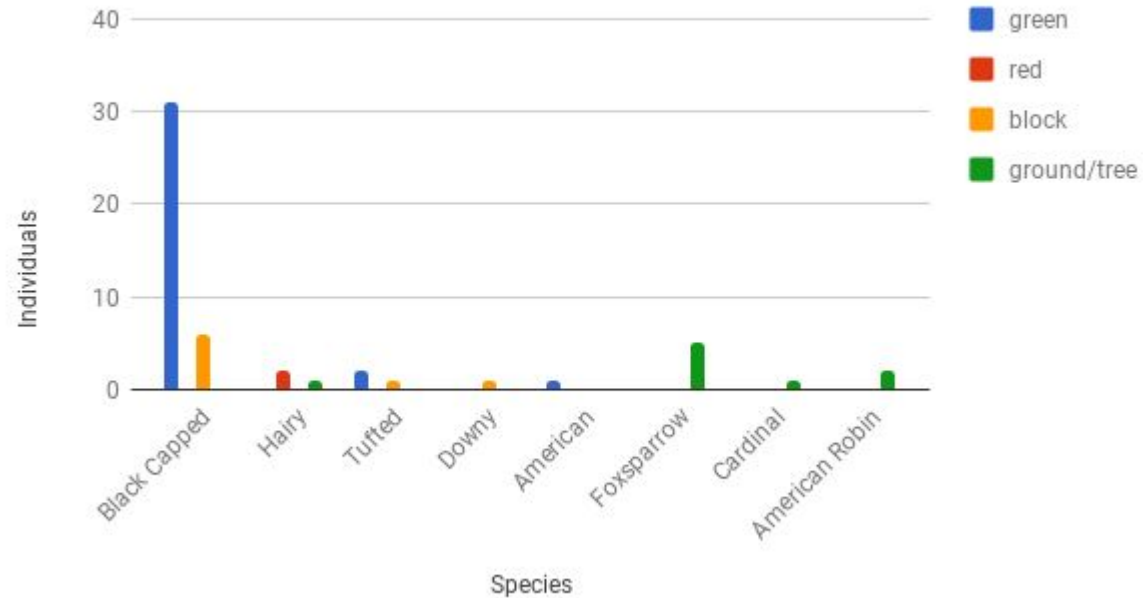
- Green feeder: 1
- Red feeder: 0
- Block feeder: 0
- Ground/tree: 0

# Results



# Results

Individuals at Each Feeder



# Results/Discussion



We found that;

- Birds that prefer to eat seeds and berries (black-capped chickadees and tufted titmouse) mostly preferred the feeders.
  - The American Robin did not prefer the feeder because their diet is mainly insects during the spring and summer.
  - We expected the woodpeckers to prefer the ground or trees but they mainly preferred the feeders.
- Birds that preferred insects (Fox sparrow, Cardinal, Hairy woodpecker) mostly preferred to eat on the ground/tree.
- Those that ate at the feeders mostly preferred the green feeder which only contained sunflower seeds.

# Discussion

Our hypothesis was supported by the data collected, with a few exceptions (such as the woodpeckers).

It is possible that the birds preferred just sunflower seeds because they can be stored (black-capped chickadees) and also sunflower seeds have a higher oil content which keeps the birds warm longer. The ground attracted the greatest diversity of birds, while the red feeder had the least diversity.





# Importance

Understanding the diet of birds and how it relates to where/how they feed is important in maintaining the ecosystems in Vermont.

