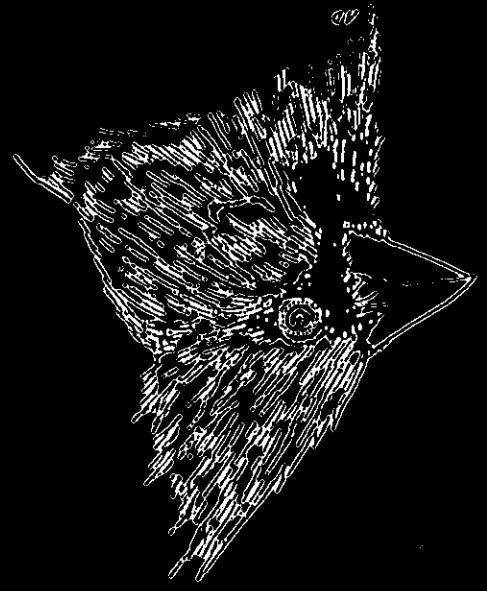


A NATURE STUDY PROJECT TO INCREASE  
 STUDENTS IN THE BIRDS OF OUR AREA AND  
 ENCOURAGE THEM TO PROVIDE FOOD AND  
 SHELTER FOR WINTER BIRDS.



WINTER BIRD FEEDER CHALLENGE

YOU'RE INVOLVED IN CONSERVATION

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY



THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM  
 THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
 THROUGH THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 P.O. BOX 288, DANVILLE, IL 60018

PLEASE MAIL BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

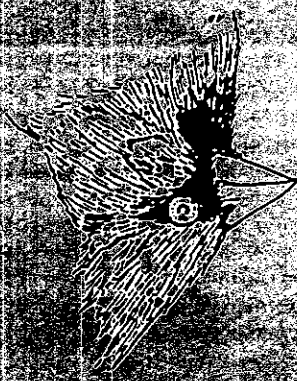
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL / GROUP \_\_\_\_\_

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 WINTER BIRD FEEDER CHALLENGE

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 P.O. BOX 2518, DANVILLE, IL 61834

PLEASE MAIL BY MARCH 15 TO



HABITAT DESCRIPTION

TYPES OF FEEDERS

OTHER ANIMALS IN AREA OF FEEDERS

OTHER SPECIES (MONTH SEEN FROM MARCH)

SONG SPARROW

TREE SPARROW

HOUSE FINCH

PURPLE FINCH

GOLD FINCH

CARDINAL

JUNCO

HOUSE SPARROW

STARLING

CAROLINA WREN

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

TUFTED TITMOUSE

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

BLUE JAY

AMERICAN CROW

HAIRY WOODPECKER

DOWNY WOODPECKER

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

FLICKER

MORNING DOVE

SHARP SHINNED HAWK

COOPER'S HAWK

SPECIES

NOV DEC JAN FEB

HOW MANY SEEN DURING PERIOD? (ESTIMATE)

FOOD PREFERRED SEED SUET OTHER

NOT FEEDING (DESCRIBE)

CLASSROOM :

CHECKLIST WINTER FEEDER BIRDS ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

WINTER BIRD FEEDER CHALLENGE

DATE OF CHALLENGE

CORNIA



## **JUNIOR WINTER FEEDER CHALLENGE** **SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS AND LEADERS**

Welcome to the Winter Feeder Challenge of the Illinois Audubon Society, the program designed to interest students in the birds of our area and to provide food and shelter for birds in winter. The data gathered by participating students throughout Illinois will be tabulated and made available to all the participating groups.

The project is most suitable for grades 2 to 6, but may easily be adapted for older or younger students. The leader can work the challenge into the class curriculum with a great deal of flexibility. The only requirement will be to check the feeding station for 15 minutes at least twice each month, identifying and recording bird species and weather conditions. Some groups may choose to monitor feeders more frequently, adding a variety of observations on bird behavior. Other learning activities across the curriculum could be generated as well—for example, charts and graphs projects relating to species abundance and weather, food preference, observations of other animals around the feeders, vocabulary enhancement, writing or art activities, etc.

An introductory slide-cassette program is available on loan from I.A.S. It is advisable to show the slides during October and November so as to teach the students about the benefits of feeding birds in winter and to acquaint them with the variety of birds to be expected. Since the project focuses on winter feeding, it does not require maintenance during the rest of the year when wild food is more abundant.

In most instances a feeder on a post may be installed on the ground. If the surface outside a classroom is asphalt or concrete, a handy solution would be to mount a metal pole in a tire filled with cement. One advantage of this method is that, if necessary, the feeder can be moved to a different location. For an upper story classroom, a tray feeder may be mounted outside a window. An onion or potato bag may be suspended for holding suet.

There will be some expenses entailed in this project, such as the purchase of feeders and seed and suet, perhaps some binoculars (optional) and bird identification books. A bird identification chart will be provided by I.A.S. Local groups in your community, such as Audubon chapters, garden clubs, or civic clubs or businesses may be willing to be sponsors.

It will be fun for the students to learn what other teams have seen at their feeders during the survey. How many total species were observed by all teams? Which team recorded the most species? What was the rarest bird seen (through careful observation) and by which team? What other animals were seen? In May, each team will receive a summary of results from all participants and a special I.A.S. Certificate of Achievement. This handsome bird certificate may be duplicated and passed out to each student for coloring as an additional project. **PLEASE MAIL RESULTS ON TIME--THIS IS IMPORTANT!**

Mail results to the address indicated on the back page of your booklet. For further information: I.A.S. (217) 446-5085 Aura Duke, (708) 748-6407 Jane Peak (618) 869-2367  
Virginia Gordon 217-355-3402

**ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
YOUTH INVOLVED IN CONSERVATION**

**JUNIOR WINTER BIRD FEEDER CHALLENGE**

**November - February**

**PURPOSE:**

- To interest children in the birds of our area.
- To provide food and shelter for birds in winter.
- To learn what species of birds are attracted to feeders in winter and what foods they prefer.
- To provide information and observations to the Illinois Audubon Society for a statewide study.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Bird feeder and seed (To attract the most species black oil sunflower seed is recommended.)
- Suet feeder and suet cakes or peanut butter.
- Bird identification book (Golden Guide, Field Guide to Birds, National Geographic Guide to Birds, etc.)
- Binoculars (if available)
- A 15 minute introductory slide program for classroom use is available on loan.

**PROCEDURE:**

- Set up a feeding station near classroom. Place dried brush or leaves near base to provide shelter.
- Monitor feeders on a weekly schedule, identifying and recording species and estimating numbers. Also record weather conditions.
- Observe: what types of food does each species prefer? which birds are aggressive at feeders, keeping others away? Which feed on the ground rather than on the feeder? Do they visit singly or in flocks?

**AT THE END OF THE PROJECT, FILL OUT FORMS AND SEND RESULTS AND COMMENTS TO:**

**ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY  
PO BOX 2418  
DANVILLE, IL 61834**

**DEADLINE FOR SENDING IN RESULTS: MARCH 15**

**PARTICIPATING CLASSROOMS WILL RECEIVE A SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS SUBMITTED BY ALL FEEDER WATCHERS THROUGHOUT ILLINOIS. EACH PARTICIPATING GROUP WILL BE AWARDED A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT.**



## REVIEW OF BIRDING CHALLENGE 1998-99

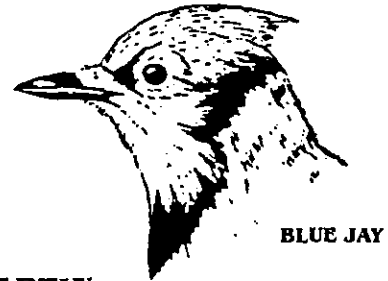
Over 400 schools throughout Illinois participated in the challenge, involving close to 9000 students, ranging from K to high school age. We received 232 interesting bird checklists for tabulation. Some groups reported no more than 5 species, while others had as many as 32, depending on habitat. It is important to offer seed as well as suet to attract the insect feeding birds. Probably the best seed to use is the black oil sunflower seed, not millet, mixed varieties or cracked corn.



## LIST OF WINTER FEEDER BIRDS

NOVEMBER, 1998 - FEBRUARY, 1999

SANDHILL CRANE (OVERHEAD)  
CANADA GOOSE  
MALLARD  
KILLDEER  
SHAP-SHINNED HAWK  
COOPER'S HAWK  
RED-TAILED HAWK



BLUE JAY

BOBWHITE  
RING-NECKED PHEASANT  
ROCK DOVE  
MOURNING DOVE  
GREAT HORNED OWL (HEARD)  
SCREECH-OWL (HEARD)  
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER  
NORTHERN FLICKER  
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER  
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER  
DOWNY WOODPECKER  
HAIRY WOODPECKER  
BLUE JAY  
AMERICAN CROW  
TUFTED TITMOUSE  
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE  
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH  
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH  
BROWN CREEPER  
CAROLINA WREN  
EASTERN BLUEBIRD

PURPLE MARTIN  
AMERICAN ROBIN  
MOCKINGBIRD  
CEDAR WAXWING  
STARLING  
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT  
NORTHERN CARDINAL  
SONG SPARROW  
TREE SPARROW  
DARK-EYED JUNCO  
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW  
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD  
COWBIRD  
COMMON GRACKLE  
EURASIAN TREE SPARROW  
HOUSE SPARROW  
PINE SISKIN  
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH  
PURPLE FINCH  
HOUSE FINCH  
EVENING GROSBEEK

*NOURISHING A CHILD'S INTEREST IN NATURE IS THE KEY  
TO DEVELOPING THE CONCERNED CITIZEN OF TOMORROW.*

Thanks for your interest and participation. GOOD FEEDER WATCHING !

# ILLINOIS AUDUBON WILDLIFE ART CHALLENGE

## AFTER WINTER, SPRING

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE *WINTER FEEDER CHALLENGE* ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ART PROGRAM. THE TOP TEN CREATIONS WILL BE EXHIBITED AT A SHOW IN MAY.

PURPOSE OF THE CHALLENGE : TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH CREATIVITY AND ARTISTIC ORIGINALITY WHILE LEARNING ABOUT BIRDS AND NATURE.

### PROCEDURE:

THE ART WORK IS TO BE INSPIRED WHILE OBSERVING THE TRANSITION OCCURRING IN NATURE FROM WINTER TO SPRING . BIRDS AND OTHER CREATURES SEEN DURING THE *WINTER BIRD FEEDER CHALLENGE* MAY BE DEPICTED: A CARDINAL ON A SNOWY DAY, BLUEJAYS CHASING OTHER BIRDS AWAY, A DOWNIE WOODPECKER HANGING FROM A SUET FEEDER, A HAWK READY TO CAPTURE A CHICKADEE, STARLINGS IN THEIR SPECKLED WINTER PLUMAGE, A FEEDING STATION WITH SEVERAL BIRDS FLYING ABOUT.



AS SPRING APPROACHES, MIGRANT BIRDS RETURN TO ILLINOIS AFTER SPENDING THE WINTER IN FARAWAY, WARM PLACES. NEW BIRDS APPEARING AT THE FEEDERS WOULD BE GOOD SUBJECTS, AND DON'T FORGET OTHER ANIMALS ATTRACTED TO THE FEEDING AREA, SUCH AS SQUIRRELS, FIELD MICE, VOLES, RACCOONS AND MAYBE A DEER. THINK OF A GOOD, INTERESTING TITLE FOR THE PAINTING.

### REGULATIONS:

THE ART CREATION IS TO BE DONE ON CONSTRUCTION OR ART PAPER, MEASURING FROM 10 TO 20 INCHES IN ANY DIRECTION. SUGGESTED MEDIA INCLUDE WATERCOLORS, CRAYONS, PASTELS, COLOR PENCILS, CHARCOAL AND SOFT LEAD SKETCHING PENCILS, INK, ECT.

**DEADLINE:** ALL ENTRIES MUST BE MAILED BY MARCH 10, 1999 AND BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY.

**PRIZES:** THE TOP TEN WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A BIRD IDENTIFICATION GUIDE BOOK.

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*AFTER WINTER, SPRING* WILDLIFE ART CHALLENGE  
INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED WITH EACH ENTRY:

(DEADLINE: MARCH 10, 2000)

NAME OF ARTIST \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF WORK \_\_\_\_\_

MEDIUM \_\_\_\_\_ TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

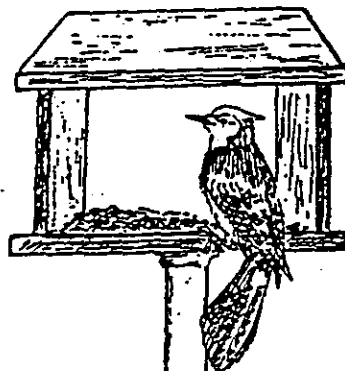
COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 2418, DANVILLE, IL 61834

# PREFERRED FOODS OF COMMON BACKYARD BIRDS - WINTER BIRD FEEDER CHALLENGE

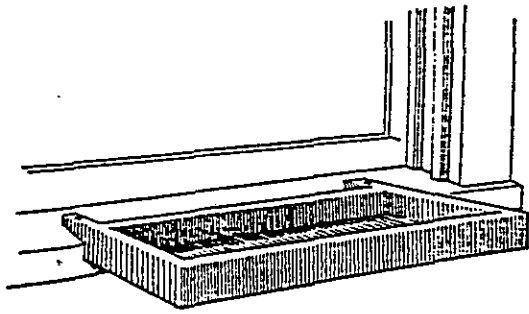
## ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

- OIL SUNFLOWER SEED** Appeals to a large variety of birds. The soft shell and high oil content make this the favorite type of sunflower seed. \*\*
- Attracts Chickadees, house finches, goldfinches, cardinals, purple finches, titmice, song sparrows, house sparrow, tree sparrows, nuthatches, woodpeckers.
- STRIPED SUNFLOWER** Seeds are larger than the oil sunflower, specially appealing to larger-billed birds
- Attracts Blue jays, cardinals, grosbeaks, titmice, grackles, woodpeckers.
- CRACKED CORN** An inexpensive food that attracts ground-feeding birds.
- Attracts Mourning dove, juncos, towhees, white-throated sparrows, grackles.
- THISTLE SEED** This very small black seed is grown in Ethiopia. It is best to place it in a special thistle feeder so it will not blow out and be wasted.
- Attracts Goldfinches, house finches, purple finches, chickadees, indigo buntings.
- SAFFLOWER SEED** Safflower is not eaten by squirrels and blackbirds. If you have squirrel problems, this may be the seed you need. When first starting out with safflower seed, it is best to mix it with sunflower until birds get used to it.
- Attracts Cardinals, purple finches, grosbeaks, house finches, chickadees, mourning doves.
- MILLET** Millet is an inexpensive small grain, eaten avidly by the seed-eating species.
- Attracts Juncos, sparrows, chickadees, goldfinches.
- \*\*\* SUET** Suet or fat is good for insect-eating birds. Suet may be obtained from the meat department or purchased as compressed cakes at a bird supply store.
- Attracts Woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, blue jays.
- PEANUT BUTTER** This is a favorite of the chickadees. The peanut oil helps provide extra warmth and energy to combat low temperatures in winter.
- Attracts Chickadees, juncos, tree sparrows, nuthatches, titmice.

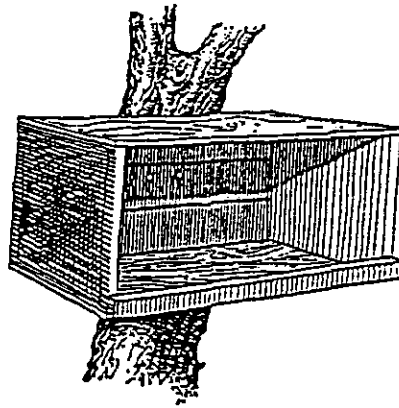


**BASIC FEEDERS - BIRD FEEDER CHALLENGE**

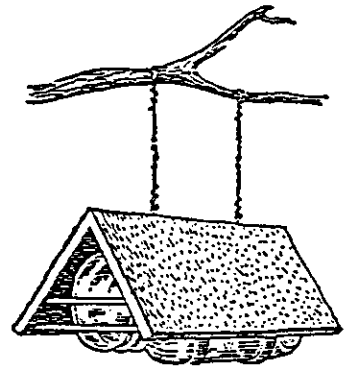
**SEED FEEDERS**



**WINDOW SHELF**

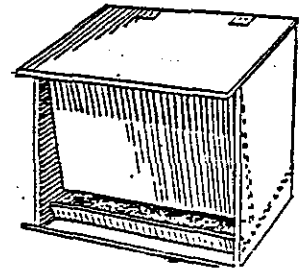
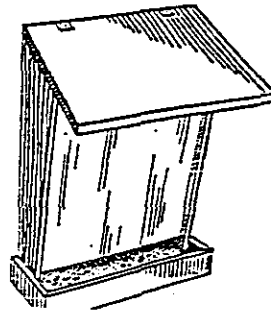


**TREE BOX FEEDER**

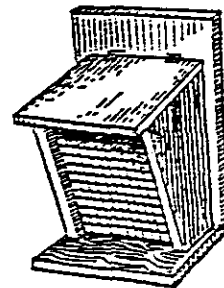


**QUART JAR FEEDER**

**HOPPER FEEDER KEEPS SEED SUPPLY LONGER BEFORE NEED TO REFILL**



**SUET FEEDERS**



**SUET AND PEANUT BUTTER LOG WITH DRILLED HOLES; ONION OR FRUIT BAG FOR SUET; LARGE PINE CONE FOR PEANUT BUTTER; SUET BOX.**