

## PROJECT

# WILD's Big Bird Buffet

Have you ever wanted to do an experiment, like a scientist? Try our backyard bird-food project, and you'll be on the path to discovery.

Birds need lots of food in winter. But what kind of food do they like best? There's only one way to find out: an experiment.

Follow the directions here and you'll discover what different bird species prefer when offered different foods.

### What You'll Need:

- a bag of high-quality mixed seeds for wild birds
- a platform with a raised flat surface, like an old table. If you don't have something at home, check out local thrift shops
- a book to help you identify birds in your area. You can also find helpful websites on the Internet



## Keep It Up

Think of other questions you can investigate. For example, do more birds come to the feeding platform in cold weather? If different birds like the same food, what else do they have in common? Have fun — and don't forget to share your findings with WILD.

## Follow these steps:

- 1 **Find** a good place in your yard for your platform. You want to find a spot you can easily see from a window, but not so close that birds might fly into your window.



- 2 **Take** your mixed birdseed and separate the different seeds into piles. A good birdseed mix should include sunflower, millet and cracked corn. Tip: Using a sieve can help speed up the job of separating smaller seeds from larger ones.



- 3 **Place** your separated seeds in their own piles on your feeding platform. For variety, you can also add fruit or nuts in their own pile.



- 4 **Start** watching your feeding platform. Whenever you see a bird using it, make a note about what it's eating. Then use your bird book or website to identify the species.

- 5 **Keep** collecting your data. Over time, you'll develop all kinds of information about what different bird species like to eat. You can also keep notes on when you see the most birds and when they eat.