

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS: INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF DROUGHT ON BIRD POPULATIONS AT FAIRVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

Our project goal was to determine how the drought influenced the bird population. We were able to do this by using pictures from the bird camera to identify the different species of birds. We could then compare the birds observed this year with the bird data collected last year.

The questions we asked were:

- What species did we see this year that we did not see last year?
- What species did we see last year that we did not see this year?
- How are the species of birds found in the school yard different from the species of birds found in the forest?

BIRDS FOUND IN THE SCHOOLYARD



BIRDS FOUND IN THE FOREST



RESULTS

SPECIES WE SAW LAST YEAR BUT NOT THIS YEAR	SPECIES WE SAW THIS YEAR BUT NOT LAST YEAR
Common Grackle	White Breasted Nuthatch
Lark Sparrow	Goldfinch
Red Winged Blackbird	Great Tailed Grackle
White Crowned Sparrow	Dark Eyed Junco
Field Sparrow	
Killdeer	
European Starling	
Morning Dove	

METHODS

We mounted one bird camera in the forest and another bird camera in the schoolyard next to birdfeeders. These cameras captured pictures of the birds that came to get food throughout the day. We looked at the pictures from both cameras and identified the different species of birds. After we identified all of the birds, we compared our results with observations that had been gathered last year in order to determine what kind of impact the drought had on the bird species.



THE MOST COMMON BIRDS...

IN THE FOREST



Brown-Headed Cowbird

BY THE SCHOOL



House Sparrow

DISCUSSION

- We observed more species of birds last year compared to this year.
- We observed species last year we did not observe this year.
- We observed species this year that we did not observe last year.
- Some of the differences we observed could be due to:
 - Different collection methods between the two years
 - Different weather conditions
 - The drought during the summer
 - Colder temperatures during the winter
 - Longer winter
 - More snowfall

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