



Favorite Bird Foods

Find out more about the birds in your backyard and what they like to eat. Gather four pie plates and fill each with a different kind of bird food. You can use sunflower seeds, oats, birdseed, breadcrumbs, cracked corn and/or small fruits. Put all the pie plates outside, on the ground, a few feet away from each other. Watch from a window to see what birds like the different foods. Record the type of bird that went to each plate. Record the length of time you watched your plates and the time of day.

Next put some of the pie plates in a tree or on top of a pole. Make sure the location is visible from your window so that you can easily see the birds at the pie plates. Record the amount of time you observed the birds at the pie plates. Now switch the pie plates on the ground with the ones in the tree. Observe the pie plates for the same amount of time. You may notice that some birds only like to eat on the ground, but others eat only in the trees. Some birds might ignore their favorite food if it's in the wrong place!

Try this experiment during different seasons of the year—you may get different birds.

Pie Plate Number	Food Description
_____1_____	_____
_____2_____	_____
_____3_____	_____
_____4_____	_____
_____5_____	_____



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Date/Season: _____ Time : _____

Length of time spent observing Plates: _____

Pie Plate #	Location	Type of Food	Type of Birds
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____