

yard a



# how does the amount of species differ between urban and desert yards?

## Abstract

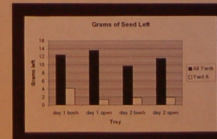
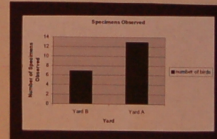
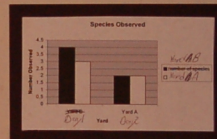
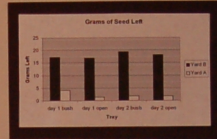
We will determine whether there are considerable differences in species between desert yards and urban yards. Seed trays in each yard, before and exposed, were observed for one hour each. The amount of species observed in each yard are counted and compared. Because the desert yard is more similar to the natural environment, there should be more species. After conducting our experiment, we concluded that there were more birds in the desert environment. It was not exactly because there were more species in the desert yard, but it was because there were less species in the urban yard.

## Procedure

Two plastic trays were laid out in each yard one in a covered break shed area, and another in the open. There were three sets of trays laid out, all on different days. Each tray contained twenty grains of seed mixed with sand. The first seven "test trays" that were laid out and unobserved for twenty-four hours. After the period elapsed the trays were replaced with a second set of identical ones. These trays were observed once during a twenty-four hour period for one hour. The second set of trays were replaced by the third and final set also identical and set in the same locations. In addition, they were also observed for one hour. The data from the one-hour observation times have been recorded, and charts made.

## Conclusion

With our experiment completed, we can now see that our main hypothesis was true. There is in fact a greater amount of species in desert yards than in urban yards. In yard A (the urban yard) there were only two species, while in yard B (the desert yard) there were more than many species. The number of species was recorded from the one-hour observations. It is probable that there were more species throughout the twenty-four hour period that were unobserved. Because the observations were made after the trays were set out, it was also probable that the bigger species would be observed. They should be better equipped to fight for the seed when there is less work needed to find food. The larger birds would use their size and pack into the tray, forcing all other birds out. After the bigger birds because used of scavenging for food, they would leave for an easier source. Smaller birds would then move in to dig up what the larger, superior birds left behind. It was shown that it was only a 10% percent possibility that by random chance the birds are less in the desert yards. In the urban yards the lack of variation of species was probably because the birds were less interested, and the larger birds were more comfortable and stayed for longer periods of time to search for food. One bird even hid asleep in the feeding tray. In the desert yard, it appeared to be more the environment aspect for desert periods of time for feeding. The larger birds are unwilling to search for seed long periods of time for food because of their fear of predators. The smaller birds would then move in with the larger birds being scared. These simple observations prove our main hypothesis, there were greater amounts of birds in the urban yards. Also, birds did spend more time in the urban yards than the desert yards.



yard b

