What happens when we feed birds?
Bird feeding has traditionally been winter only.
Now, often year round

Less strict in warmer places
United States

22,000 carriages of seed annually
What happens when we feed birds?
Supplementary feeding experiments

Survive winter better, start breeding earlier, have more attempts, produce more offspring
Additional food always changes something!

Ruffino et al. (2014) *Frontiers Zoology* 11: 80
Feeding creates concentrations and competition.

Miller et al. (2017)
Beh Ecol 28: 1454
Feeders attract feeder birds

Greater diversity of species requires a diversity of foods
Feeding changes bird communities

Galbraith et al. (2015)
PNAS 2657: 1501489112
More feeders, more birds (but not more species)
More feeders, more nasties

Is feeding moving birds around?

Blackcaps: a fortuitous mistake?

Anna is on the move
Anna’s Hummingbird
In Vancouver

Historical range

Northern range

Grieg et al. (2017)
ProcRoySocB 284: 20170256
Do birds rely on our food?

Margaret Brittingham
Winter in Wisconsin
25 years of feeding

No difference in survival!
No evidence of dependency

Brittingham & Temple (1992) J Field Ornith 63: 190-194
What about chicks?

Natural foods preferred

Parents have no junk food policy

Strong evidence of dependency among the humans!
Feeder birds are healthier, but...

Greenfinch:
seed led recovery; feeder led decline

Trichomoniasis!
Diet switching:
Natural propensity meets modern supply
Plenty happens when we feed birds!

We reconstruct bird communities

Some expand their range

They are usually more healthy

They do not become dependent

They reproduce more

They survive winter better

Some forget to migrate

...but are also more susceptible to disease
Our feeders are part of vast network

What we do in our gardens....... Influences birds in our street, suburb, town, city, region, state, country, continent.
Thank you WBFI

Darryl Jones