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*What Variables Affect Aggressive Behavior in Birds?*

I tested the hypothesis, “The size and gender of the bird, temperature, air pressure, cloud cover, wind, and moon phase will affect the aggressive behavior of birds at a bird feeder.” I looked at a number of possible variables that could have affected the birds aggression, including size, gender, temperature, air pressure, cloud cover, and moon phase. I set up one feeder and video-taped for 30 minutes starting an hour after sunrise from November 4 through November 19, 2012. I observed 355 aggressive interactions. I found that House Sparrows, which are larger, are dominant over House Finches, and that males are dominant over females. I found that as temperature and air pressure drop, the number of interactions increases. I also found that fewer interactions happen when there is more cloud cover, and more interactions when the moon is waning than when it is waxing. One reason I did this experiment is because I wanted to see if anything would make school shootings and other violent acts more predictable so we could help prevent them.