

anthroo

by Terry Okello

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Stofberg, M., Cunningham, S. J., Sumasgutner, P., and Amar, A., 2019. Juggling a “junk-food” diet: responses of an urban bird to fluctuating anthropogenic-food availability. *Urban Ecosystems*, 22(6), 1019-1026.

What hypothesis was tested, or what question was asked?

The hypothesis of the research was on whether a massive presence of people on the campus site provides starlings with adequate opportunities to access a lot of anthropogenic food.

What methods were used to test the hypothesis or to answer the question?

The methods used include analysis of study site and species, analyzing the composition of the diet, observation of behaviors, and statistical analysis.

What were the main results? Was the hypothesis supported?

One of the results is that anthropogenic food enabled starlings to gain a greater body mass daily.

Starling did not show any higher foraging even when there was less human population.

What are the implications of the results?

Urban settings avail adequate resources that sustain urban birds hence tolerating the presence of human beings in this environment.

Summary: Word Count, (259 Words)

Urban environment threatens the lives of animals in a number of ways. Some of these aspects of the urban settings that negatively impact the lives of animals include pollution, destruction of natural vegetation, and predation by other animals, and other forms of accidents involving motorists and animals. The best part of it is that most of the species live successfully in these challenging environments hence colonizing these regions.

Anthropogenic food is an essential variable that influences the lives birds in urban setups. Most of the birds are capable of accessing these anthropogenic foods alongside other human-made structures for habitat. The availability of anthropogenic food alters the migration behaviors of birds because they are likely to select urban routes where they can access these food substances. It is important to note that cities avail large quantities of anthropogenic food based on massive food production activities in these regions. Therefore, birds are likely to devote much of their time in activities such as self-maintenance and safety issues when there is adequate food for consumption.

Birds also respond to the fluctuating rate of anthropogenic food in society. The fluctuation of these food materials depends on human activities based on their calendar of events. The only advantage of such fluctuations is that it occurs over a shorter timeframe. Such a situation implies that these birds are only spending less time weekly while foraging since the availability of anthropogenic food is unquestionable based on human patterns of daily activities. Therefore, some birds are highly flexible because they have capabilities to eliminate all resource bottlenecks.

Thoughtful Questions about the Reading

- What are some of the limitations that these researchers faced while using these methods in collecting data?
- Since the researchers argue that Starlings consumes more calories and fats, are there any health issues that these birds can experience from such diet?

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