

BIRD FEEDERS

Bring birds closer to you, so you can see how they behave!

NOTE: Birds can become dependent on feeders, so don't start a feeding program when natural foods are scarce, as in winter, unless you can continue the program.



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Sunflower seeds, dry oatmeal, popped popcorn, raisins, unsalted peanuts or other nuts, peanut butter, or bird food from a store
- Empty milk carton, or cardboard box, or can lids with lip
- Thumbtacks, hammer and nails, or wire to make a hanging loop
- Strong scissors
- Thin wooden stick (dowel), long twig, or pencil for perch (optional)
- Hole punch (optional)
- Aluminum foil (optional)

Be sure to get an adult's help to cut large holes in a milk carton, and to tack or nail any feeder.

WHAT TO DO

- 1** Cut large holes out of three sides of a clean, large milk carton. Birds can perch on the remaining bottom edges, or you can punch holes in opposite sides and insert a thin wooden perch. Line the feeder bottom with aluminum foil to make cleanup easy. Punch a few holes in the carton bottom (and the foil) so rain can drain out.

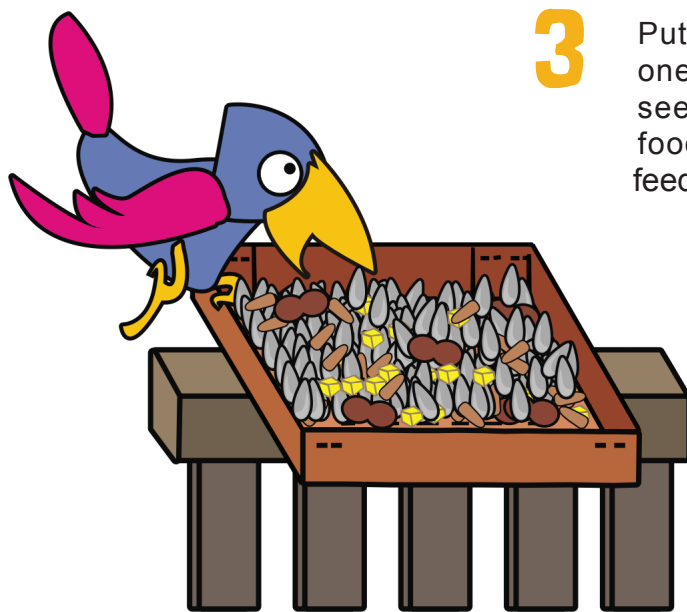


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BIRD FEEDERS (ACTIVITY CONTINUED)

- 2** Tack, nail, or attach a wire loop to hang the carton feeder from a branch, post or wall. (For a flat box feeder or can lid, attach securely to a railing, outdoor table or other flat surface so the feeder won't blow away or get knocked down.)

Place feeders where you and birds can see them, if possible where rodents and cats can't reach, and near trees or bushes so birds can hide quickly.



- 3** Put bird food in the feeder. Try one type of food in one feeder and a different type in another feeder, to see which foods attract which birds. If rain wets the food, replace it soon to prevent mold or clean the feeder with bleach or vinegar every two weeks.

- 4** It may take a few days before birds start feeding. When they arrive, watch them and note your observations. If you have a camera handy, take pictures too.



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