

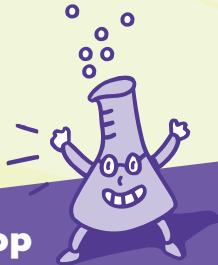


Make a Bird Feeder

Provide a tasty snack for birds.

What You Need

- A half-gallon cardboard milk carton, rinsed and dried
- scissors
- string
- birdseed



Science Scoop

While it's best for birds to get their **food** (like seeds and berries) from plants in their natural habitat, over 100 different types of birds in North America also eat food from **bird feeders**. You can make a bird feeder to **attract** birds back to spaces where people have developed the land. Or you can help birds by **planting** flowering bushes or berry-producing trees. These can also serve as places for birds to **build nests**. If water isn't available for birds to drink or bathe in, try creating a **birdbath** out of a shallow plastic container. Just remember, if you put out a bird feeder be sure to keep it **filled** with birdseed since birds come to depend on it. To learn more about **what birds need**, visit the National Audubon Society Web site at www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/bird_feeding/index.html

- 1 Cut** a rectangle in one of the carton sides. Leave about 2 inches of carton on the top and bottom and half an inch on either side.
- 2 Poke** a hole in the folded top of the milk carton with the scissors. **Thread** the string through it and tie it in a loop.
- 3 Fill** the bottom of the carton with birdseed.
- 4 Hang** the carton by the string on a tree branch, on a porch, or in some other outdoor location. Get an adult to help. Make sure you can see the feeder.
- 5 Observe** the different birds. Count how many visit the feeder in an hour, a day, or a week. Try to observe the feeder at the same time every day.



After finishing your bird feeder, make a **chart** like the one below. Look in a **field guide** (a book about wildlife) to find the **names** of the birds. How many **kinds** of birds visited the feeder and what **time** of day or night did they visit? What **patterns** did you notice?

Date and Time	
Description of bird.	
Describe the bird's behavior.	
Name of bird.	

Sent in by Samantha D. via e-mail



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