



OUTDOOR WILDLIFE AWARD



PROJECT: **BIRDS**

GOALS

- A. BIRD FACTS:** Identify four different **birds** and four characteristics of all **birds**.
- B. BIRD CHALLENGE:** Create a backyard bird feeder.

A. **BIRD FACTS**

Bird Examples (Identify 4.)

- duck, eagle, flamingo, pelican, hawk, vulture, ostrich, quail, turkey

Bird Characteristics (Identify 4.)

- have a backbone
- are warm-blooded
- female birds lay eggs
- have wings (not all are used to fly)
- have feathers

B. **BIRD CHALLENGE**

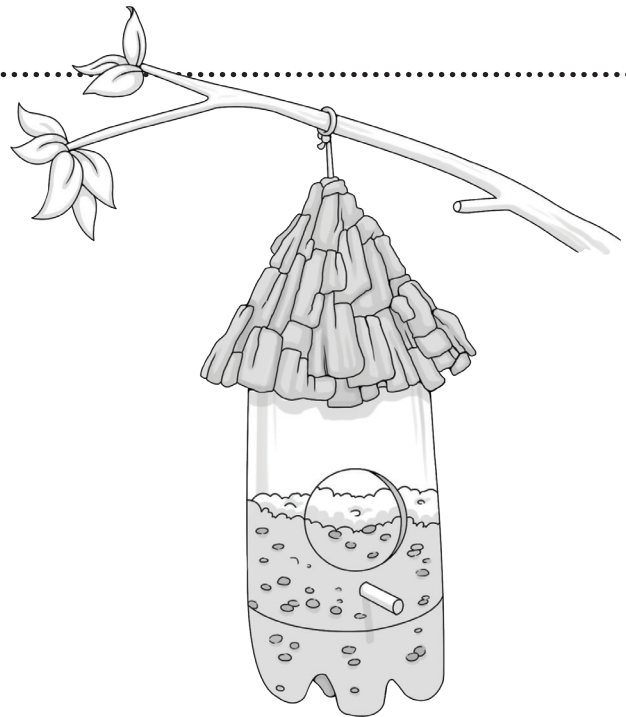
Complete the following steps to create your own bird feeder for your backyard birds.

Supply Checklist

- 2-liter soda bottle cleaned with lid and labels removed
- small hand drill
- utility knife
- dowel
- string
- wood glue

Step 1—Create a Bird Feeder

1. Clean out the bottle and remove all labels. Try soaking the bottle if the labels do not come off easily.
2. Use a utility knife to cut a 2-inch round hole a little more than halfway down the bottle.
3. Drill a hole for the dowel just below the larger hole. Make the hole large enough for the dowel to push through but not fall out. Put the dowel in and secure with a little wood glue. This is your platform for the birds to stand on!
4. Drill a hole in the top lid large enough for a string to pull through. Feed the string through the lid and tie it inside with a knot large enough so it won't pull through. *NOTE:* You can use wire instead of string.
5. Pour bird seed into bottle until it comes to the edge of the feeding hole and close the lid. Tie the feeder to the nearest branch!



OPTION: To make a "roof," add another 2-liter bottle with the bottom 2/3rd's cut off (keep the top portion with the cap removed). Also need wood glue and bark.



OPTIONAL STEPS:

- **ROOF:** Take a second 2-liter bottle and cut off the top third. Feed the string from the bird feeder cap through your partial bottle so it rests on the top of your feeder—creating a roof. Cover your “roof” by attaching bark with wood glue. Allow to dry.
- **OPTIONAL DECORATING:** Paint your creation to make it look like a little house. Use acrylic paints so that it will not wash off in the rain. Wear paint clothes.

□ Step 2—Feed Your Birds

1. Identify the birds that may come to your backyard. Use the Internet or a field guide to identify common backyard birds and choose the appropriate birdseed for your birds.
2. Feed your backyard birds using the appropriate birdseed.
3. Observe and record your visitors daily for one week. Present your findings to a friend or family member.

RESEARCH MORE

- *National Geographic Backyard Guide to the Birds of North America* by Jonathan Alderfer, Paul Hess
- *Backyard Birds (Field Guides for Young Naturalists)* by Karen Stray Nolting and others
- *The Backyard Bird Lover’s Ultimate How-to Guide: More than 200 Easy Ideas and Projects for Attracting and Feeding Your Favorite Birds* by Sally Roth
- *nationalgeographic.com* Lookup “Backyard Bird” Identifier and search by region.

*My child has successfully completed the Project Goals for the topic—**Birds**.*

Adult Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Complete SIX projects to earn your WILDLIFE award)