

Activity 15:
Far-out Feeders

Objective: Use various household materials to create bird feeders, utilize various types of bird feeder types and determine their effectiveness

Time: Variable

Materials: Depends on feeder types. See instructions on pages 57-58.

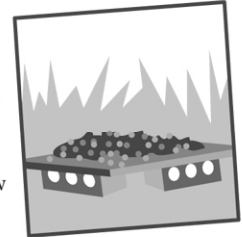
3

Type II: Raised Platform Feeders

Board Feeder

Materials: wooden board, bricks, birdseed

Place a board on a few bricks so that the board is stable and slightly raised off the ground. Scatter birdseed on the board. Replace seeds if they become wet. Or, place the board securely in a low fork of a tree. Or, scatter seeds on a tree stump.

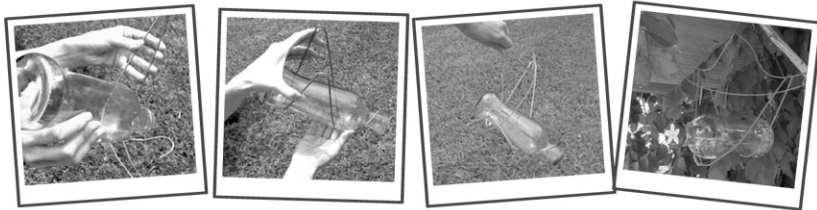


NOTE - most of these feeders will require adult help and/or supervision.
CAUTION! Be sure to replace wet birdseed often and periodically wash bird feeders.

Ask the JMgers to tell you where they usually eat supper. Explain that not everyone eats in the same surroundings. Some people like to eat in a kitchen, while others prefer a more formal dining room setting. Birds, too, have preferences about where they eat. Some birds like to eat from a feeder suspended in the air. Some like to eat from feeders attached to tree trunks. And, some birds like to eat from flat surfaces close to the ground.

Tell the group that they are going to build various types of bird feeders and find out if some feeders attract more birds than others do. They may also discover that certain birds prefer to use certain types of feeders.

Have the group make at least two of the feeders listed on the next page. You may decide to assign one feeder type per group. Or, if time permits and the group is large enough, try all four feeders!



Using a bottle with a metal cap, a small nail, and a couple of coat hangers, JMgers can make a recycled hummingbird feeder!

Type III: Hummingbird Feeder

Recycled Bottle and Wire Hummingbird Feeder

Materials: Bottle with screw-on metal lid (rinsed well), small nail and hammer, wire coat hanger (or other heavy gauge wire), water, sugar, string

Using a hammer and small nail, tap a pin hole-sized opening in the center of the metal cap. Use paint pens to decorate the cap to resemble a blooming flower. Be sure to use the color red! Show your group how to use coat hanger to create a "harness" for the bottle. Dissolve 1/4 cup of sugar into 1 cup of hot water. After the sugar water has cooled, pour the mixture inside the bottle. Hang feeders with openings pointed down in the garden area.



NOTE: When the bottle is first turned upside down, the mixture will leak for several seconds until the pressure lowers enough to hold the liquid inside.

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