

Bird Feeder Observations

General Objective: Students will construct a bird feeder of their own design and observe what birds use their feeder.

Specific Objectives: Discover:

- Constructing a bird feeder,
- Observing,
- Recording data, and
- Animal classification.

Time: Two hours spread over several days.

Resources needed: 4-H 903, pp 18-19. Copies of the different bird feeder designs, bird watcher's guide, Observation Table, and Bird Feeder Observation Worksheet. Collect supplies for the birdfeeder construction based upon the attached designs.

Activity: Learn about bird feeders and observe what birds come to the feeder.

Discussion – 5 minutes:

- Ask students who has a bird feeder at home.
- After their response ask who has family members who watch birds.
- Explain that they are going to build a bird feeder or bird feeders if you have a large class.
- Break into groups if needed and pass out the bird feeder design sheet.

Construction – 15-20 minutes:

- It is best to design one hanging feeder and a tray feeder if you are making more than one feeder. Students will then be able to make observations about the different birds that go to each feeder.
- Construct the feeders based upon the attached construction design.
- You may need extra milk cartons or 2-liter bottles if the students have a hard time cutting the holes
- Walk around the room assisting the students as needed.
- Place feeders outside where they can be observed.

Observation – 15 minutes a day for a week:

- Have the students replenish their feeders daily.
- Wait to start observations until birds are using your feeder(s).
- Tips
 - Keep the feeders clean.
 - Change out the seed more often if there is a lot of rain or snow.
 - Use a mixture of seed and peanut butter on the tray feeder if seed blows away.



- When birds are frequenting your feeders have each student record what birds are visiting in their Observation Table.
- You may need a few copies of a bird watcher's guide to identify the birds.
- Observe for 15 minutes. Be sure to do your observations at the same time of the day each day.
- Help the students complete their table and identify behaviors the birds might be displaying.
- After observing for a week complete the attached worksheet.
- Discuss with students their observations and worksheet responses.

Reference (4-H manual): 4-H Wildlife Manual, Level 1 (4-H 903), pages 18-19.

Academic Standards:

Activity	Grade	English	Science
Bird Feeder Observations	4 th	1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.8	1.2, 4.3
	5 th	1.2, 1.4, 6.3, 6.6, 6.7	1.1, 4.4



Bird Feeder Designs

Design #1 – Milk Carton Feeder

Materials: Milk carton, 12 inch long dowel rod, wire, knife

- Cut two holes one inch above the bottom of the milk carton on opposite sides.
- Be sure your holes are large enough for a bird to access the food.
- Below the holes make two small holes.
- Slide the dowel rod through the small holes to make a perch.
- Make two small holes at the top of the carton.
- Insert wire through holes to make a hanger.
- Place bird feed inside.
- Hang outside in a tree.

Design #2 – 2-Liter Feeder

Materials: 2-liter bottle, 12 inch long dowel rod, wire, knife

- Cut two holes one inch above the bottom of the 2-liter bottle on opposite sides.
- Be sure your holes are large enough for a bird to access the food.
- Below the holes make two small holes.
- Slide the dowel rod through the small holes to make a perch.
- Make two small holes at the top of the bottle.
- Insert wire through holes to make a hanger.
- Place bird feed inside and hang outside in a tree.

Design #3 – Tray Feeder

Materials: Plywood 12''X12''(approximate), trim wood, hammer, nails, drill, and drill bit

- Use the plywood as your tray.
- Drill three small holes for draining water.
- Attach to the sides the trim wood for an edge.
- Place feed inside the tray.
- Find a location up off the ground to place your feeder

Observation Table

Date	Bird Species	Number	Behavior



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