

2. Building Bird Feeders With Recycled Materials

Source: Adapted from *The Junior Environment Club Manual*, Waterloo Region District School Board and Youth Services Canada

Description

Students will use recycled materials to make a bird feeder, reinforcing the idea that by reusing objects, rather than buying new ones, we can generate less garbage.

Background Information

There is no place on Earth called “away.” All the items we throw away must go somewhere, and usually end up in the soil, air, streams and oceans. By reducing our consumption and reusing everything we can, we will minimize the amount of garbage going to landfill.

There are many birds found in the city over the winter/early spring. To survive, birds either migrate or they have made adaptations to deal with Ontario’s winters. Through the winter in the city, birds survive on insects and seeds that are not covered by snow. Many songbirds use bird feeders as a source of food throughout the winter. However, the bird feeder is only a minor food source, contributing less than 20% of their total diet. Common birds that may be seen around bird feeders during Ontario winters are:

- ▶ White Breasted Nuthatch
- ▶ Black Capped Chickadee
- ▶ House Sparrow
- ▶ Northern Cardinal
- ▶ Blue Jay
- ▶ American Goldfinch
- ▶ Downy and Hairy Woodpecker
- ▶ Tree Sparrow
- ▶ Mourning Dove
- ▶ Dark-eyed Junco

See Appendix A for details.

A bird feeder should be hung near trees, bushes or a treed area and away from windows. This gives birds easy access to the food without becoming vulnerable to predators. The bird feeder should be filled regularly with seed to ensure that it is a constant source of food for the birds that are using it.

Appendix B *Bird Feeder*

