

# Bird Belly Café

(Age 10 and up. Requires cutting with a sharp knife.)

One of the easiest ways to start learning about the birds in your region is to put a birdfeeder in your yard! A birdfeeder, if it is put in a good spot, will attract all different kinds of feathered friends throughout the year. Plus, this type of birdfeeder is a great way to recycle a used plastic milk jug!

## *What you'll need*

½ gallon or gallon milk jug, completely clean and dry  
Pencil or permanent marker  
Sharp knife or scissors  
Small dowel rods or sticks, about 4" to 6" long  
Birdseed  
Rope or heavy twine for hanging feeder



## *What to do*

1. First, be sure the jug is completely clean.
2. Draw two or three circles spaced around the jug, several inches from the bottom of the jug. These holes should be between 2" and 4" in diameter. The size of the hole will determine the type of bird that will be attracted.
3. Have an adult help you use a sharp knife or scissors to cut out the holes you have drawn.
4. Use the knife or scissors to make a small slit below each of the holes you just cut.
5. In each of the slits, insert one of the dowel rods or sticks. These will be the perches.
6. Fill the bird feeder with birdseed through the spout at the top of the jug. Fill it just high enough to go above all the feeding holes. The weight of the seed will help hold the perches in place.
7. Hang the feeder from a tree limb or on a post near a tree.

## *Investigate and discover!*

When you are choosing a place to hang your feeder, make sure you give birds a safe place to sit, near the feeder. A nearby tree or large shrub can give birds enough shelter and will keep them safe from the eyes of predators. Be sure to keep your feeder full all year long – your local birds will depend on you for a source of food!

Different birdseed varieties will attract different types of birds. Keep a notepad near a window where you can see the birdfeeder, and make a list of the types of birds you see with certain kinds of seed. For help identifying birds that come to your feeder, do the Backyard Birdwatcher activity, or look in a field guide for your region. Bird field guides are available at the library, in bookstores and on the Internet.