



# SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Bird Biology

## K-3 Classroom Activities

### Building a Bird Feeder

#### OBJECTIVE

Students will build a bird feeder and be able to recognize two species of birds that come to feed.

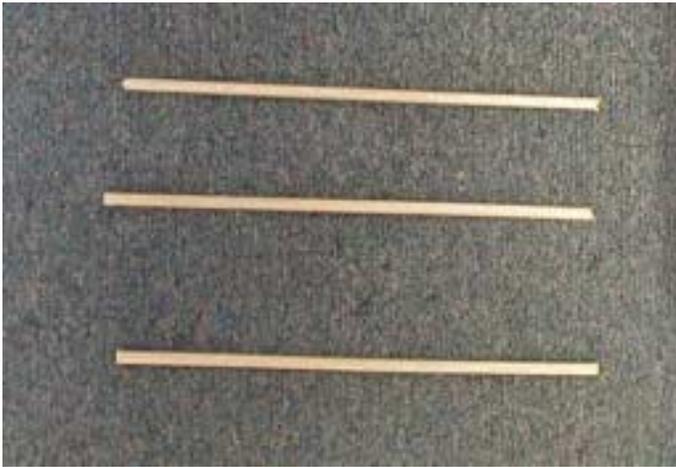
#### ACTION

To make the bird feeder:

1. Clean the soda bottle with mild soap and water. Rinse well. Soak off label, remove plastic bottom, and keep cap.
2. Make perches by inserting wooden dowels through bottle. First cut small "X" marks (one either side of the bottle) using the scissors or "X-acto knife", then push the dowels through the holes.
3. Make feeding holes by cutting small,  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. holes about one to two inches above the perches. Don't make holes too big, or seeds will fall out.
4. Make hanger by cutting wire clothes hanger about 4 to 5 inches from hanger's hook. Bend wire inward. (See photo next page.) Push wire ends through opposite sides of the bottle on the base (fat) end. Balance hanger.
5. Fill soda bottle with birdseed. Screw on cap. Hang upside down from tree branch or high fence.

To watch birds:

After your feeder is up for a few days, you will probably have many birds coming to eat. Set aside 10 or 15 minutes to watch the feeder each day for a least a week. Ask students "What colors do they see in the birds?" "What sizes?" "Do any birds match?" Use a local bird identification (field) guide to find the names of the birds at your feeder. Common birds to look for in the spring are sparrows, blackbirds, starlings, rock doves (pigeons), and warblers.



Cut 1/4" in diameter dowels to lengths of about 8 to 9" long.

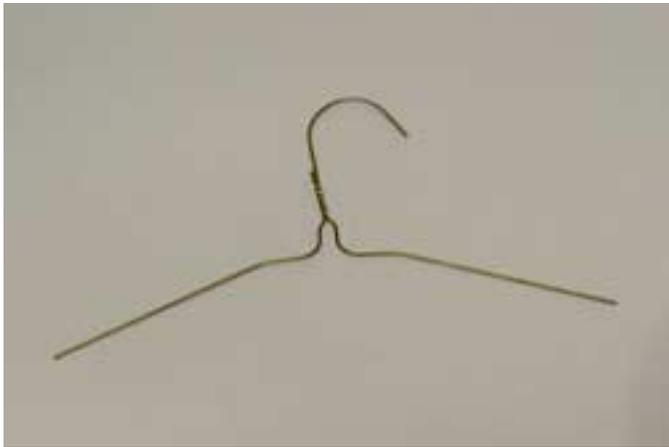
## MATERIALS

### Per feeder:

- one plastic 2-liter soda bottle with cap
- three or four small wooden dowels, (about 1/4" diameter and 8 to 9" long)
- 1 wire clothes hanger
- bird seed

### Per class:

- wire cutters
- local bird identification guide
- sharp scissors or "X-acto" knife



Cut the bottom off a wire clothes hanger, leaving about 5 to 6" on the top arms.



Clean a 2-liter soda bottle and scrape the label off.



Feeder with wooden dowels and hanger attached.