



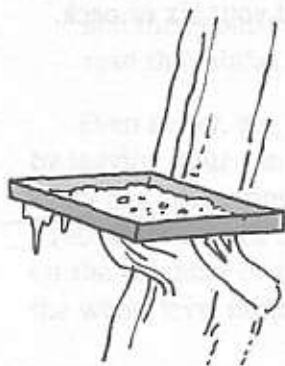
A Bird Feeder



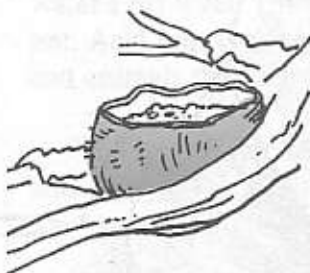
When you promised to do a good turn every day, did you ever think that you could do a good turn to birds as well as to people? During the winter, snow and ice bury most of the natural food supply of birds. You can help birds survive by keeping a bird feeder going all winter.

If you want to attract a lot of birds, start feeding them in the autumn before the snow falls. One thing is **VERY IMPORTANT**. If you start feeding birds in the fall, you must continue until spring. The birds will become dependent on your feeder. If you stop feeding them before they can find food somewhere else, many of them may die.

You can make a bird feeder in many different ways. Here are some of them:



1. Put half a coconut shell in a tree.
2. Cut a hole in the side of a milk carton and hang the carton in a tree.
3. Put a tray with sides on it almost anywhere.
4. Buy a feeder from a store. Maybe you can buy a kit and build it yourself.



Keep your feeder filled with wild bird seed. You can buy it in a grocery store or pet shop. You can also use bread crumbs, sunflower seeds, crushed corn, or unsalted nuts (too much salt is harmful to birds). Do not use peanut butter alone, as it might choke the bird. Be sure to mix seeds with any peanut butter you use.



One of the best bird foods is beef fat, called "suet". Some grocery stores sell suet mixed with bird seed in a net bag that you can hang from a tree. Left over bacon fat mixed with seeds is also good for birds.

If you like, you can keep a record of all the different kinds of birds that use your feeder. Borrow a book from the library to help you identify them. You can use this information for your star requirement or your badge.

In the spring, tell your six, Akela, or one of your other leaders about your bird feeder. If you've kept a record of the different birds that use it, show them the record, too.

You can also make a bird bath or bird house. Bird baths are easy. Take an old garbage can lid and mount it on a tree stump or place it on the ground and surround it with a few rocks. Make sure you keep it filled with water.

Birds are fussy about where they build their nests. If you want to build a bird house, borrow a book about bird houses from the library and follow its directions. Make sure that the house you choose to build is a kind that a bird living in your area likes!

I saw these kinds of birds using my feeder or bird house:
