



Day 3: Bird Feeders + Bird Beaks

Make your own bird feeder!

Bird feeders can be anything from tiny replicas of mansions to a pine cone on a string. No matter what bird feeder you make, set it up outside a window, sit back and enjoy the bird TV.



How to make a [Milk Carton Bird Feeder](#)

Materials:

- Milk Carton
- Scissors/X-acto blades
- Hole Puncher (optional)
- Things to decorate your milk carton

Steps:

1. Make one or two holes on the top of the carton (recommended hole punch)
2. Thread string through hole
3. Cut an entrance in the front of the milk carton (*You can make multiple entrances too, just remember not to make the entrance too big for structural integrity*)

4. Put some seed inside, and you've made a bird buffet!

Don't have a milk carton? No worries, I put together instructions for how to make all kinds of different DIY bird feeders using materials like pine cones and Legos! [Click here to check it out.](#)

Bird Observation Tips:

Now that you've assembled your awesome new bird feeder, set it up somewhere and try to do a [sit spot](#) nearby. Listen for the sounds the birds are making. Can you tell which birds are making which noises?

If you want to identify the birds you are seeing check out [this website](#). It gives examples of birds that are common to see in Ohio. The site explains what the bird looks like, where the birds live, and what kinds of food they like to eat.

Another awesome resource is a bird identifying app called [Merlin](#). You can describe the bird you saw or take and submit a picture of it and the app will identify it. So cool!

What's the buzz about bird beaks?

Since we are making something to help feed the birds today, let's learn a little bit about what kind of food birds like to eat! Did you know that there are over 400 species of birds that live in Ohio? All of them have evolved different beaks to adapt to their natural environment. Let's look at the different kind of beaks birds are flaunting:



Flower Eaters:

Birds like hummingbirds have beaks adapted to eat different flowers. Their beaks hold very very tiny tongues that actually suck up nectar like a paper towel.



Seed Eaters:

Birds like cardinals have cone shaped beaks to break seeds apart and dig through the dirt. Another fun fact: cardinals are the state bird of Ohio!



Meat Eaters:

Check out this sharp looking gal. Birds like this hawk have developed very strong and sharp beaks to tear into prey.



Bug Eaters:

Look at this crazy hair doo! This guy is called a Pileated Woodpecker, and his beak is used to hammer into tree bark looking for delicious bugs.

Bonus Challenge:

Click the link below and listen to a short sound clip I recorded on a walk yesterday. How many birds do you think you hear? Is there a tapping sound that stands out? Which one of the above birds do you think the tapping belongs to?

[Mystery Bird Soundclip](#)

Answer: [Pileated WoodPecker](#)

Journal Prompt of the Day:

- When observing, notice the different patterns and shapes of each bird, and jot it down or draw a picture in your newly made [nature journal](#).
-

Share pictures of your bird feeders with us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)

Keep an eye out for future activities on the [Imago Ranger page](#).

Tomorrow's Theme: Bird Watching with Miss Sara's Cats!

Have fun feeding the birds! Maura, the Mud Queen