

**Wonderfully Wild Unit**  
**LESSON 2: Grades 4-6**  
**HERE BIRDY BIRDY.....**

**Show Me Standards:** 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.7, 1.8, 1.10, 2.1, 4.1, 4.5 & 4.7

Knowledge Standards: Communication Arts: 1, 3 & 4 Mathematics: 1 & 3, Science: 3, 4 & 8

Social Studies 7 Fine Arts: 1 & 4

**Objective:** The student will become familiar with various native backyard birds. They will know how to regularly maintain a bird feeder and will create a bird feeder for area backyard birds.

**Materials:**

- Resource materials (internet access, books, magazines, posters, etc.) with information on backyard birds native to your area
- Pencils
- Notebooks
- “Wildlife Watch” handout
- “This is for the Birds” handout

**Method:** Birds are everywhere and anyone can attract them if they do a little investigating! Whether you live in the city or a rural area, you can attract birds if you follow some simple rules. Your class’s bird watching adventures will begin in no time!

Use the handout entitled “Questions for Bird Lovers” and discuss the content with the class. Once they have an understanding of what birds need and prefer, they will be able to build bird feeders and hang them up to attract birds to your school grounds for all to enjoy! Make sure they understand that maintaining the feeders is a responsibility that can’t be taken lightly, especially in the winter when food is scarce and the birds are depending upon them to be fed.

Have the students share the available resources to find a particular native bird they would like to attract to the school grounds. Have them discover what the bird likes to eat, where they usually feed (trees, ground, etc.) and what type of feeder is preferable. Their assignment will be to use their ingenuity to create a feeder that meets their bird’s criteria.

**Call to Action:** You can provide the materials (preferable recyclable, reusable and environmentally friendly) to build these in class or can ask them to build one outside of class and bring it in. Have each student present these to the class explaining their choice of bird, food and type of feeder. Hang these in the appropriate places around the school grounds, maintaining them regularly.

Have each student use a notebook to begin a bird watching journal. Designate 10 minutes a day to quietly go into the school yard to observe the birds and maintain the feeders. They can keep track of the number and type of birds they see. They can also record behavior they witness and draw pictures of the different birds. These can be put on display in the library so that other students may learn.

**Web sites:** For recommended animal-related web sites visit [www.apamo.org](http://www.apamo.org) and choose “Animal Issues” from the left-side menu, then choose “Links” from the top of the page. Or [click here](#) to launch your browser and link directly to the list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Wildlife Watch

Jordan put a bird feeder outside his kitchen window. For one week, he recorded the birds who visited the feed-

er. Use his notes to answer the questions below.

	chickadee	sparrow	goldfinch	nuthatch	cardinal
Sunday	8	6	7	5	4
Monday	2	5	4	2	1
Tuesday	6	2	2	4	3
Wednesday	4	5	5	3	2
Thursday	3	7	6	2	0
Friday	4	4	3	3	2
Saturday	7	6	6	5	3



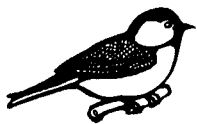
1. On what day did Jordan see the most visitors at his feeder? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which bird visited the most often? \_\_\_\_\_ Least often? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many more goldfinches than nuthatches did Jordan observe during the week? \_\_\_\_\_
4. On what day did Jordan see seven sparrows? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was the total number of birds Jordan saw all week? \_\_\_\_\_



Feeding our feathered friends gives us the chance to see them up close. Follow these simple rules to keep birds healthy and safe.



- \* Use feeders that have no sharp edges and are easy to clean.
- \* Clean feeders often and make sure seeds are dry and free of mold.
- \* Place feeders near bushes or trees where birds can quickly escape from predators.



chickadee



sparrow



goldfinch



nuthatch

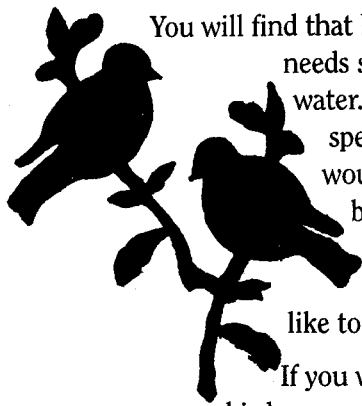


cardinal

**Watch for birds visiting your neighborhood or schoolyard. Draw two of them. Use library books or field guides to identify the birds and write two fascinating facts about them.**

# THIS IS FOR THE BIRDS

**A**lmost everyone can attract birds, whether they live near a forest or on the top of a high rise. The number and variety attracted will vary, of course. But there is a lot more to bird feeding than just hanging out treats. If you really want to enjoy your feathered friends, it's probably a good idea to know a little bit about them.



You will find that birds all have a few basic needs such as food, shelter and water. If you have a particular species in mind that you really would like to get to know better, find out how they like to be served, what they like to be served and when they like to be served.

If you want to attract many types of birds, you will have to offer many types of seed from different type feeders and at varying heights. Some birds prefer ground feeding, while others like platforms and hoppers. For best selective seed feeding, try a few tube feeders. Vary the heights and the mixture, and don't forget a thistle feeder. Suet feeders will bring in woodpeckers, flickers, sapsuckers and make many of your chickadees happy as a lark.

Consider your bird feeding responsibilities the same as running a fine dining establishment. You have to offer food in ample portions, constantly refill the water and keep the feeder and eating area clean. It is not advisable to throw seed or other bird food directly on the ground, because it can become contaminated by mold and dampness, causing sickness in the birds.

The following questions and answers might help you in feeding and attracting your favorite birds.

## 1 WHAT KIND OF SEED SHOULD I BUY?

Black oil sunflower seed is a bird favorite. While many of the mixed variety of seeds are cheaper than straight sunflower seeds, you'll need to use more mixed seed in the long run. If you want to feed a variety of seeds, use a different feeder for each type of seed, putting only one kind of seed in each feeder.

## 2 HOW EXPENSIVE IS IT TO BEGIN FEEDING WILD BIRDS?

You can start simply with a piece of scrap wood, elevated a few inches above the ground. Add a few holes for drainage and you've built a platform feeder! If you consider buying a commercial feeder, consider one made of metal, ceramic, PVC or other durable plastics so it can last for years.

## 3 WHAT IS THE BEST LOCATION FOR A BIRD FEEDER?

The best location is where you can see and enjoy it, in a place that is easily accessible for you. It's a good idea to keep it close to quick cover. If you watch birds often, you will notice they always use both eyes—one for looking at food and the other looking over their shoulders for possible predators.

## 4 HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR THE BIRDS TO FIND THE FEEDER?

You can help the birds find your new feeder by taking advantage of a bird's natural curiosity. Fasten some aluminum foil to your feeder so that it will reflect the light. Birds will see the glint of light and will come to investigate

## 5 WHAT ABOUT SQUIRRELS?

If you've seen squirrels in your neighborhood, it's safe to assume they will visit your feeder. There are a variety of baffles and "squirrel-proof" feeders on the market. Squirrels can sometimes be diverted by providing them with their own squirrel feeder with peanuts and corn.