

# WONDERFULLY WILD UNIT

## LESSON 3: Grades K-3 THIS IS FOR THE BIRDS!

**Show Me Standards:** Academic Goals: 1.2, 1.3, 1.5,1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.5, 3.6, 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7

Knowledge Goals: Communication Arts-3,4,5,6,7; Math-2; Science-3,4; Social Studies-6

**Objective:** To gain appreciation for the wild birds that grace our backyards. To learn about the responsibilities involved in feeding wild birds.

### **Materials:**

- Clean, dry, empty plastic soda or water bottle with cap (2 liter or any size)
- An ice pick or sharp object (for adult use only!)
- Twigs or small sticks that are 2-3 inches wider than the bottle
- Yarn, string or twine
- Paperclip
- “Don’t Hurt A Bird...” handout

**Method:** Wild birds are wild and should always remain in the wild. However, with some responsible actions, we can help the birds and bring them in “close and personal” for a better look.

Birds can be a wonderful learning tool for your students, teaching them mysteries of survival, tenacity, responsibility, and as a source of beauty and entertainment.

Although birds benefit from the easy access to birdseed, people are primary beneficiaries of this recreational activity. The opportunity to share food and enjoy the mystique of birds at close range provides hours of enjoyment just outside your home. Bird feeding adds diversity to your day and enriches your life.

Here’s how to make the bird feeder:

- 1) heat tip of ice pick and push a hole through cap of water bottle
- 2) straighten paper clip and feed through hole; bend paper clip inside of cap to secure; bend outer portion of clip in shape of hook (to hang on a small branch)
- 3) screw lid back on bottle
- 4) push ice pick through (evenly on both sides of bottle)
- 5) push twigs through holes, allowing a small portion of twig to stick out on both sides, serving as a perch
- 6) use ice pick to make a slightly larger hole approximately one inch above twig through which the birds feed
- 7) fill with seed and hang

**Call to Action:** Have students explore organizations in your community that help wild birds. Is there a wildlife bird sanctuary or an Audubon Society in your community? If so, what work do they do to help wild birds? Is the habitat in your community being destroyed? What about pollution levels? Have students write letters to community leaders and the editor of your newspaper encouraging builders to save a place for wildlife when designing new developments.

Make bird feeders to sell at PTA or school functions. Include the directions for proper feeding and commitment to feed until natural food sources are abundant. The money raised could be used to purchase trees for planting on school property or in a nearby park. Or the money could be donated to an organization that helps wild birds.

**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.

# DON'T HURT A BIRD THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP.

If you set out pieces of yarn and string for birds to use as nesting material in the spring, make sure they are not more than six inches long. Longer pieces can get tangled around the birds and hurt them.

