

# RECYCLING RECESS

MAKE SOMETHING; MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

## HOMEMADE BIRD FEEDER

*This homemade bird feeder will make your neighborhood birds sing with joy!*

### SUPPLIES:

- Toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- Peanut butter, nut butter or shortening
- Scissors
- Butter knife
- String or ribbon
- Flat craft stick

1. With a pair of scissors or a hole punch, make a hole on either end of the tube. This is for the string to hang your feeder.

2. Make a small slit straight through the center of the tube for the perch. You may need an adult's help for this step!

3. Use a butter knife to cover the tube with an even coat of peanut butter, nut butter or shortening. Make sure to leave some room around the perch slits!

4. Roll the tube in the birdseed. Push down gently so that the seeds stick.

5. Thread the string through the holes on either end of the tube. Tie double knots so that the string stays secured.

6. Find the slits and slide the craft stick through them to make the perch.

7. Hang your bird feeder someplace where you can see it!



**THAT'S IT! WATCH THE BIRDS ENJOY THEIR SPECIAL "TWEET"!**



**SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL ZOO  
& CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE**



**FRIENDS  
OF THE NATIONAL ZOO**

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## WILDLIFE CONNECTIONS

Birds play an important role in our ecosystems. We can learn a lot just by watching them! Unfortunately, we are losing birds at an alarming rate due to a loss of suitable habitat. Food, shelter and nesting sites can disappear when land is used for buildings, houses or even parks.

Planting native trees, shrubs and flowers is one of the best things you can do to help birds. Hanging bird feeders adds to birds' diets and to give you the chance to observe them more closely. Many scientists, explorers and naturalists keep a nature journal to record what they see daily and how plants and animals change with the seasons. Start keeping your journal by writing about, drawing or photographing the birds you see. You can track the resident birds that make your region home year-round, as well as the migratory birds who travel through in the spring and fall.



Photo by Smithsonian Institution

John James Audubon, an American naturalist, drew detailed bird illustrations.

## RECYCLING RECESS CHALLENGES

Do you have what it takes to help a bird migrate? Play this [migration game](https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/play-migration-game) to help Wanda the wood thrush migrate from her summer home in Maryland to her winter home in Costa Rica!  
(<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/play-migration-game>)

Now that you've become a bird watcher and a nature journaler, become a citizen scientist! Citizen science enables anyone to assist in real, ongoing scientific research, often from their own neighborhoods. With so many species of birds on Earth, scientists cannot monitor them all. You can help by submitting the birds you see to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's [eBird](https://ebird.org/home)  
(<https://ebird.org/home>) so scientists can evaluate their populations.

Learn more about Smithsonian's National Zoo at our [website](https://nationalzoo.si.edu) (<https://nationalzoo.si.edu>)!



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