



Vancouver, Washington is home to native birds: Black-capped Chickadee, Steller's Jay, California Scrub-Jay, American Goldfinch and Robin, Song Sparrow, House Finch, Spotted Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco and others.

Backyard Bird Feeder

Make a Backyard Bird Feeder in about 15 minutes to attract and see those birds! Don't be surprised if non-native birds, like the ones that hang out in the rafters at Home Depot (English House Sparrow and Starling), also come to visit and feed.

Steller's Jay says: "While this project is easy enough for children and families to do, proper supervision is recommended."



You will need



- 1 Empty Water Bottle
- 1 Pencil (bird perch)
- 24" length Yarn
- 1 Push Pin
- 1 Marking Pen
- 1 Scissors
- 1 cup Wild Bird Seed

Optional: Decorate with 3 colored rubber bands, green moss, sticks, etc. (Birds are attracted to bright colors that look like their feathers).



Are you curious? Check out these **Free E-Resources** to help you to identify birds and keep your bird visitors healthy*. Also explore activities for kids. (Browse online or download free Apps to your cell phone or tablet).

- Audubon Society: <https://www.audubon.org/>
- Bird Care: <https://feederwatch.org/learn/feeding-birds/>
- The Cornell Lab: <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/>
- DIY Activities For Kids: <https://www.audubon.org/get-outside/activities>
- Bird Academy Play Lab: <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/learning-games/>



Step by Step Directions

1. Make a loop at each end of yarn and attach tightly to neck of the bottle.
2. With pen, make two marks opposite each other on the bottle about 1 inch from the bottom of bottle (for the perch) AND two more marks about 2 inches above the 1-inch marks (for the feeding holes).
3. With scissors, cut a 0.25" slit at the marks you just made.
4. At the 1-inch slit, while gently twisting the pencil/perch, push it all the way through to the other side of the bottle. (See how it looks in picture above).
5. With scissors, widen the remaining holes to 0.5" diameter (to give the birds access to the seeds).
6. Fill the bottle with bird seed and screw on the top.
7. Use push pin to poke drainage holes in the bottom of bottle (to prevent rainwater from building up inside).

American Robin says: "Hang bird feeder at least 4 feet off the ground (out of cats' reach). *Clean your bird feeder every two weeks, or discard and build a new one."



HOW TO IDENTIFY BIRDS THAT COME TO VISIT YOUR BACK YARD

At The Cornell Lab All About Birds website, <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/> begin by clicking the “Get Instant ID Help” tab.



1. In the pop-up window, click the “Start Bird ID” tab and then enter your location.
2. Follow directions, answering each question, as you go.
3. Using your mouse/keyboard, make selections on each page to refine your search.

Example, slide #3 asks “What size was the bird? (Check a button which matches the size of the bird you are identifying), then click on the “Next” tab to move on to the next slide.

Location - Habitat	Date	Size and Shape	Color Pattern	Behavior	Your Bird? *

*** Note:** If the picture is not the bird that you saw, scroll down the web page to view and select another bird to view as a possible match. If you still do not see your bird, edit your selections at the bottom of the web page.

Not your bird? Edit	Add blue color	Is this your bird?	ID Information	Full species account	Range Map

Did you know that birders identify bird species simply by scientifically looking at bird characteristics like size and shape, color pattern, behavior and habitat?

Some Fun Facts about Steller's Jay:

- ✓ While commonly found in forest wildernesses, Steller's Jay can also be seen in campgrounds, parklands and backyards.
- ✓ An excellent mimic, the Steller's Jay can imitate sounds made other birds, squirrels, cats, dogs, chickens and some mechanical devices.
- ✓ Steller's Jays love peanuts, other large seeds and nuts, as well as suet.

