

# Bottles to Bird Feeders

Materials: One 2-litre empty and washed plastic pop bottle

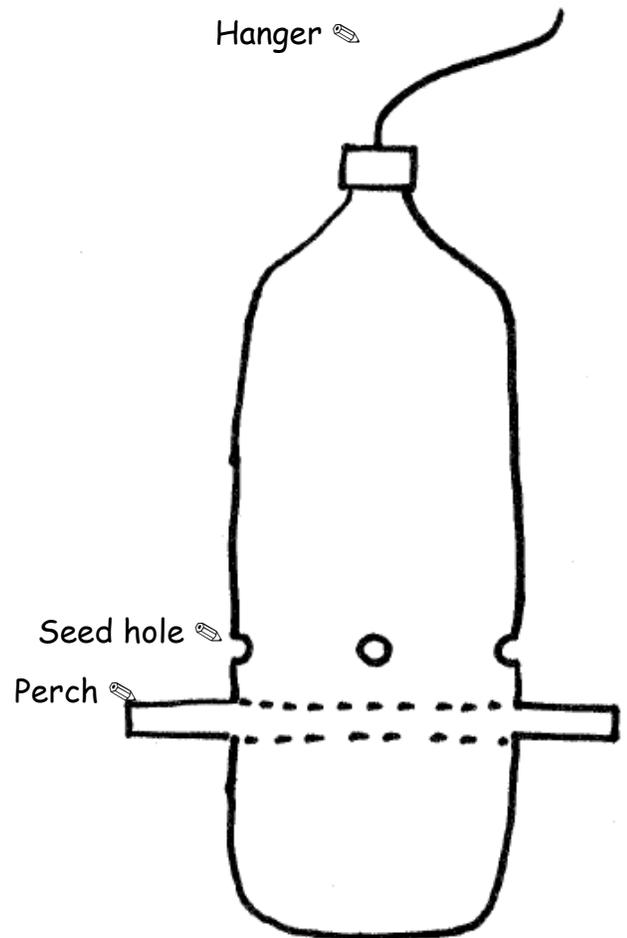
Length of wire or strong twine for hanger

Two lengths wooden dowel or straight twigs -- 35 cm each  
approximately 40cm masking tape

Electric hand drill (use only with adult supervision) and carpenters'  
1/8" and 1/2" drill bits

optional: small washer or wood scrap to stop twine from slipping  
through stopper hole

1. Remove bottom and label.
2. Drill 0.3175 cm (1/8") hole in bottle cap. Optional: tie off end of twine hanger with washer or wood scrap. Set aside
3. Push 35cm wire or strong twine through hole in top and make a hanger loop.
4. You will need four 1.25cm ( 1/2") holes for dowel (or twig) perches and for more holes for seeds. The holes drilled at 0° and 180° should be 5cm above the bottom of the bottle, while the holes drilled at 90° and 270° should be 3cm above the bottom of the bottle (to allow the two perches to pass through the center without interference). See the photo on the next page. Slip twig or dowel perches through opposite holes.



5. Place short strips of the masking tape vertical to the perch holes; this tape will strengthen the bottle while you drill each of the seed holes. Drill holes 2.5cm directly above each perch hole. The birds will perch and pick the seed from these seed holes.
6. Fill with black oil sunflower seeds and tighten the cap. Ideally, hang from a tree branch, about 1.75-2.0 m from the ground (at about eye level) and at the edge of an area where woods meet an open field.

Here is a picture of one student's bottle bird feeder:

Also, remember that you will need to fill and clean this feeder on a regular basis, sometimes during bad weather. Don't put your feeder in some hard to reach place. You should be able to pick up your feeder and fill it again, without having to use a ladder.



**These backyard birds found in our province will probably visit your feeder: Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees, American Goldfinch, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Common Redpoll, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatch (see our online Bird Watch project checklist for colour photos).**