

# KINDERGARTEN SCIENCE: LIVING THINGS

## BIRDS

### BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

- There are over 10000 species of birds in the world!
- They have a wide variety of diets including insects, seeds, fruit & meat.
- Contrary to popular belief- bread is not a healthy snack for birds.
- Instead unsalted seeds, nuts, cracked corn & fruit, are better options.



## ACTIVITY: BIRD FOOD BALLS

Allow the lard to warm to room temperature. Break into smaller pieces. Pour bird seed and put lard into the tub and allow kids to explore the texture of the two ingredients together with their hands. Encourage students to roll into ping pong sized balls. Place balls around green space, up on branches and down on ground. Find a hiding place nearby to observe birds. What birds do you see?



### MATERIALS

- Lard/Suet
- Unsalted Bird Seed
- String
- Tub or tray

### HEALTH & SAFETY

- Consider allergies- some bird seed mixes contain nuts.
- Consider cultural rules around handling animal fat.

### HELPFUL HINTS

- Best done in the winter months or early spring when the birds need it most. Lard can also go rancid in warmer weather.

### CIRRICULUM OUTCOMES

LTK.1 -Examine observable characteristics of plants, animals, and people in their local environment. (CP, SI)

### TAKING IT FURTHER

- Field Trip- Natural spaces like the river valley, North East Swale, Saskatoon Natural Grasslands & Beaver Creek afford prime bird watching habitat.
- Expert- Book a virtual guest presenter, like a Meewasin interpreter to learn more.

### EXTENSIONS

- Math- Make predictions about the number of different coloured birds you will see, keep a tally while outside & graph afterwards.
- Physical Education- Play migration headache.
- Language Arts- Make a descriptive word web of the birds seen.

### RESOURCES

- Meewasin Birding Video
- Merlin Bird ID excellent app for identifying birds.
- PowerPoint with common local birds.
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology- Abundant info on birds.

### INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- Why are there less birds around in the winter?
- How do birds stay warm in the cold?

### HOME CONNECTION

- What birds can you see in your backyard or local green space?

### DID YOU KNOW?

Meewasin helps support bird science research with its annual bird counts? Learn more.