

## Fence-Board Birdfeeders

Feeding birds can be fun and can help common backyard birds during any season of the year. In winter, when food is less available, bird feeders provide a source of supplemental food that helps resident and over wintering species survive periods of cold weather. In summer, many breeding birds may supplement the food that they feed their young from backyard feeders. Feeders can also provide an opportunity to see young birds begging for food as their parents teach them to feed themselves. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, there is an even greater need to help our feathered friends. Many of the plants that provide fruit and insects as food for many birds were lost to the storm, making the extra food provided by feeders more important throughout the year. Please help Audubon Mississippi and the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society to feed birds by building simple bird feeders using the many fence boards<sup>1</sup> now lying about across the coast. Following the basic design provided below, a portion of a standard fence board, a tin can, a few screws and a length of cord can be turned into a simple bird feeder that can provide hours of enjoyment while providing a much needed boost for birds. You will also be recycling items that would otherwise end up in a local landfill.

### Follow numbered steps to complete construction.

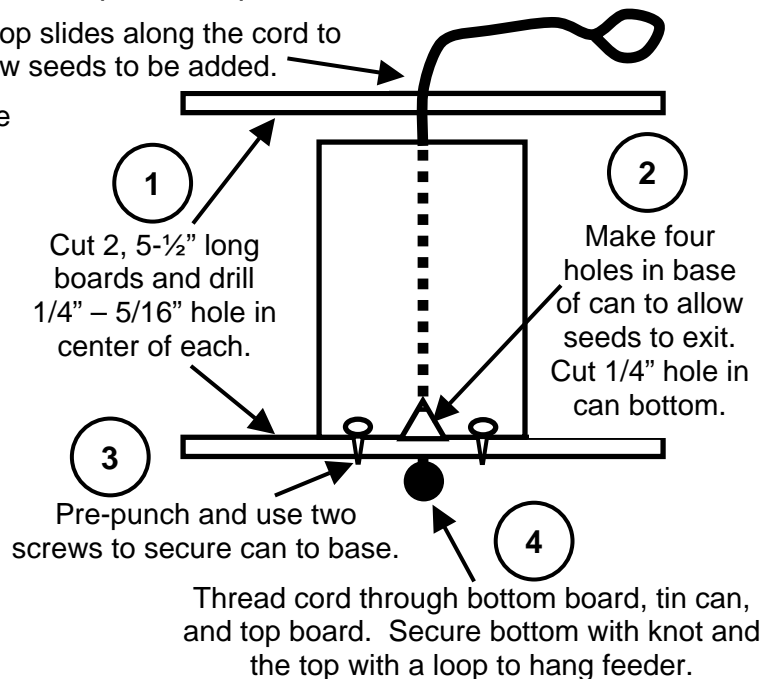
#### Materials needed:

- A 11-inch portion of a 1"x6" fence board (actual width is 5-1/2")
- One, 10 – 16 ounce tin can (top removed)
- Two, #6 x 1/2"-long round-headed screws
- 18" length of 1/4" cotton or nylon cord

#### Tools needed:

- Hand saw
  - 1/4" drill bit and drill
  - Household tin can punch (makes triangular holes in tin cans)
  - Screwdriver\* (flat head or phillips, as needed for screw heads used)
- \* A magnetized tip helps to hold and guide screws into can.

Feeder top slides along the cord to allow seeds to be added.



Visit Audubon Mississippi's website ([www.msaudubon.org](http://www.msaudubon.org)) for plans for building birdhouses and details about Operation Backyard Recovery. Please contact Mark LaSalle at the Coast Project Office for further details (228-475-0825 or [mlasalle@audubon.org](mailto:mlasalle@audubon.org)).

<sup>1</sup> Cedar or cypress boards are the best choice for feeder construction. Avoid using new, pressure treated boards, as the chemicals may harm birds. Old, weathered treated boards are, however, acceptable.