

FEED THE BIRDS

Do you enjoy watching birds fly and hop across the ground? Can you identify any of our local birds by their markings or by the songs that they sing? You can attract more of our feathered friends to your yard by putting out a bird feeder filled with seeds and a source of water for them to enjoy.

Nevada State Bird Did you know that Nevada has an official state bird? We do! The Mountain Bluebird was officially designated our state bird in 1967.

The Mountain Bluebird eats many harmful insects, so it is good to have around. This beautiful bird is a member of the thrush family, and its song is a clear, short warble a bit like a robin's. The male is bright blue with a white belly, and the female is brown with a bluish rump, tail, and wings.



Milk Carton Bird Feeder Make this milk carton bird feeder designed by the Audubon Society, an environmental conservation group that protects birds and the places that birds need using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation.



Note: Adult supervision required

Materials needed:

- 1 milk or juice carton
- Rope, cord, ribbon, or wire
- Acrylic paint
- Paint brushes
- Stick or pencil to use for perch
- Decorations recycled from household materials, crafts, or nature
- Craft or hot glue

Instructions:

1. Cut a large hole in the center of one side of the carton, starting several inches from the bottom.
2. Beneath this large hole, cut a small hole to poke a stick or pencil through. This will provide a perch for dining birds.
3. Cut two small holes on either side of the top of the carton to thread the rope or wire through.
4. Paint and decorate your feeder. Use your imagination!
5. Fill with birdseed.
6. Hang your feeder in a spot about five feet from the ground, preferably with a good view from your window.

Resources for more information

Visit the **Audubon Society** website at <https://www.audubon.org/> for lots of great information, including a guide to help you identify the birds that will be visiting your new feeder <https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide> plus more designs for different bird feeders <https://www.audubon.org/news/four-do-it-yourself-birdfeeders>.

The Audubon Society's kid-focused website is full of fun and educational activities <https://www.audubon.org/get-outside/activities/audubon-for-kids>.

The Lahontan Audubon Society is the local chapter for the Reno area. Their website has a nice local birding guide for those species commonly found in our region <https://www.nevadaaudubon.org/area-birding-guide.html>.

The **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York is an excellent source of information on birds <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/>. *Ornithology* is the scientific study of birds. The Cornell Lab has created the Merlin Bird ID Wizard, a free app for smartphones. <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

National Geographic also has plenty of interesting facts about our feathered friends: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/>