

Backyard Birding by Karen Bryan

“Not a tasker or an asker,” but a QUARANTINE-BLASTER for your brain!

MCBH is home to many wild birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We challenge you to compile a list of bird species in your area. Not a birder? Well, there’s no better time to start than during this stay-at-home order.

In this photo, notice the bird feeder made of repurposed plastic materials including:

20 oz. soda bottle and cap

Plastic bowl

Screw, 2 washers, & nut (OR: sturdy string & good knots to assemble the pieces)

Non-toxic glue

Wire or string

Drill and bit

Old newspaper or paper towel

Disposable gloves (optional)

How to:

Drill holes in the bowl and bottle cap barely large enough for the screw to pass through them. No old screws laying around? You can use sturdy string and good knots to attach the pieces, but your feeder will withstand the elements and the bird traffic better with a screw. Loosely assemble them in this order: screw, washer, bowl, bottle cap, and 2nd washer. Make a dime-sized hole on both sides of the bottle for the bird feed to come out (any larger and the seeds fall out too fast). Protect your working surface with a paper towel or old newspaper. Don your gloves and put a small dot of glue between each part and firmly attach them. Allow the glue to dry. Attach a wire or string around the narrow part of the bottle, and then attach another wire or string to that one to form a loop to hang your feeder. Voila—a bird feeder made from repurposed plastic!

Now, fill your feeder and wait. In a day or less, the birds will come. Look online for common birds of Hawaii. Start making notes, taking photos, and sharing your pics with #MCBHbirds.

Optional: DOD Partners in Flight is hosting an unofficial Backyard Bird Blitz. For more info check out: <https://ebird.org/explore> or <https://www.denix.osd.mil/dodpif/home/> .