

# Homemade Feeders

by Sue Friscia

The first bird feeder I ever had, I just hung on the clothesline and waited. Birds came in bunches scattering seed below which attracted ground feeders. So without any effort I had two feeders for the price of one. Oblivious to the fact that the feed was destroying the grass, I became obsessed and scattered seed everywhere. It didn't take long before my yard was covered with birds and my feeder was destroyed by squirrels.

It was at that point that I decided to construct some inexpensive feeders with recycled wood scraps, driftwood, tree branches and stumps - things I had been saving for years and could finally be put to good use.

To take care of my "squirrely" friends first, I placed three tree stumps around the yard and nailed a plastic frozen vegetable bowl to the tops. If you want to take this idea one step beyond sanity, save polystyrene foam bottoms used for meat packaging and tack them to whatever you can find around the yard. You can turn your property into one huge feeding arena. Granted this is not permanent, but it will show you which areas are the most popular among the birds.

You can also try, as I did, laying down two tree branches parallel to each other about 2 feet apart and then alter-

nating with two more branches until it gets 2 feet high. I placed a half of a hollowed out stump on top to form the feeding area. The finishing touch was a forked branch strategically set to provide perching space. It became apparent when the first squirrel jumped on the feeder and everything went flying that I would have to make this assemblage more permanent. I tried nails, but they cracked some of the thinner branches. So I drilled holes and screwed my makeshift feeder together.

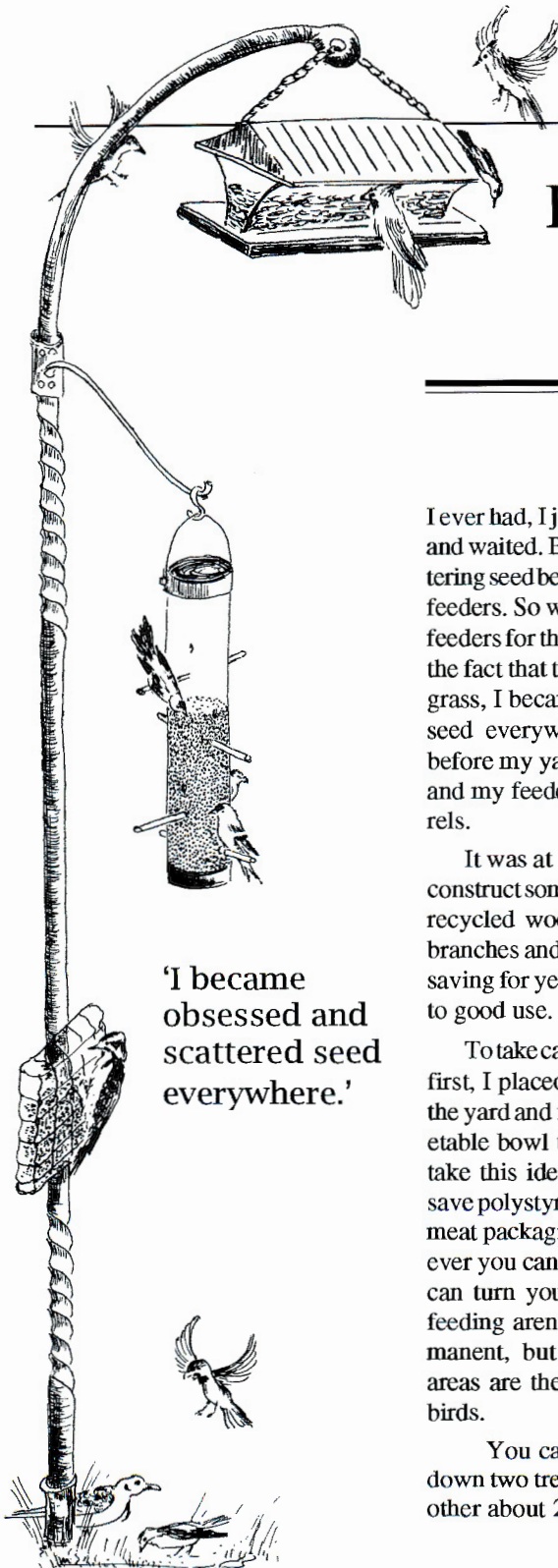
I designed another homemade feeder for my front yard. I had no trees on which to hang the feeder, so I painted a chair leg I found at a garage sale and used an angle bracket to screw it right above the living room picture window. It became the favorite hangout for goldfinches and House Finches.

If you have any interesting ideas for homemade feeders to share with readers, send me a photo or drawing with simple instructions.



Sue Friscia  
3417 West 123rd Street  
Alsip, IL 60658

*Drawing by Denis Kania.*



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