

FEEDER STATION

by Sue Friscia

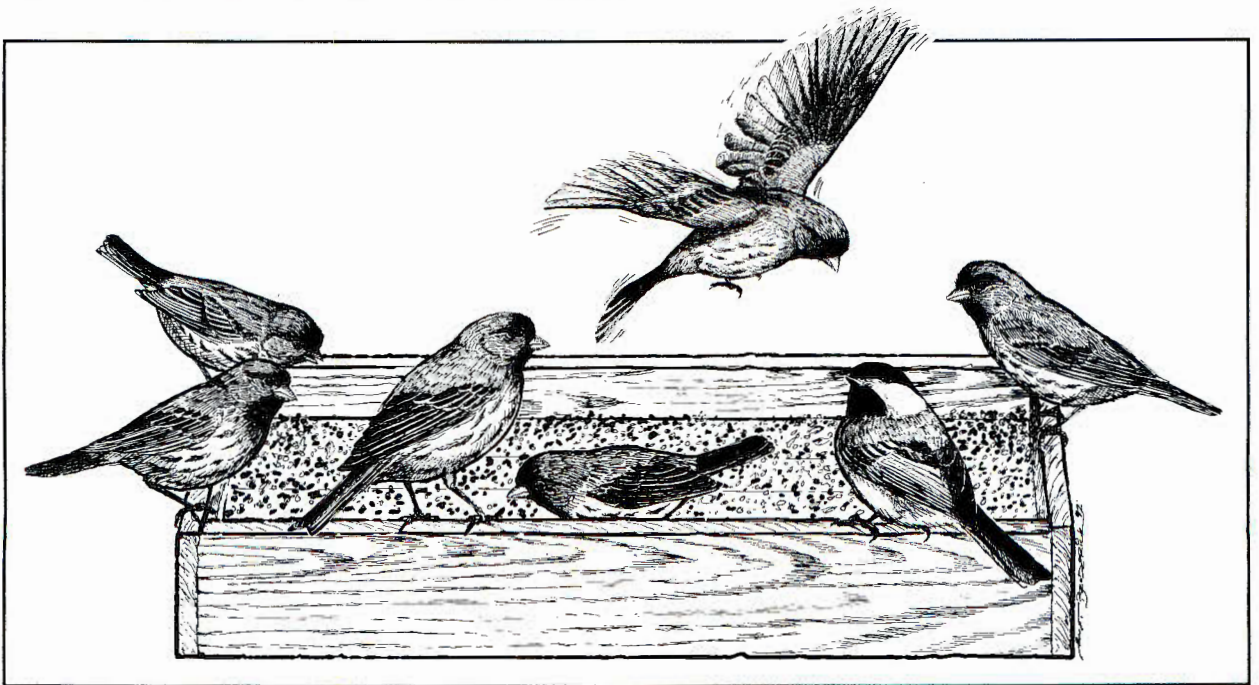
Building Your Own Feeder Sound System

Illinois nature centers offer great opportunities for seeing new bird feeding ideas and devices. One of my favorites is Plum Creek Nature Center in Will County where two full-

birds chip and sing and scramble for food.

Sound gives indoor birding a whole new dimension. Experiencing those auditory delights indoors has prompted me to

I already had a tape recorder that accepted an external microphone. Most tape recorders can function as a PA system by plugging an external microphone, pressing "play" and



Drawing by Emmet Broderick.

length windows allow unrestricted observation of an attractive bird feeding area. Binoculars and field guides are available and complimentary coffee is served.

The feature that makes this feeding station unique, though, is sound. While you're seated inside, warm and comfortable, you can hear through speakers what's going on outside as

install my own backyard feeder sound system.

The action proved surprisingly easy and inexpensive once I solved three problems. First, I needed to find a cheap PA system. Then I had to figure out how to fasten the microphone outside and keep it dry. Finally, I had to run its cord through the foundation to a tape recorder inside the house.

then pressing "pause." You should then be able to amplify the melodious sound outside as much as you want. All I needed to buy was the microphone, which cost me \$17 at a local electronic music equipment store.

Make sure you take your recorder with you before you buy anything, because not all microphones work with all