

Refreshing Bird Feeder

Problem Statement: Birds are searching for food from the field outside our front door.

Question: How can I change their path of travel from the front tree to the cornfield?

Illustration:

Description of Problem: Many hungry birds of relatively small size have invaded the field outside our front door. There is a large popular tree that serves as a home for the birds to the right of our front porch. The birds must travel from the tree and over top of our car to get to the cornfield. This leaves our car dive-bombed with bird feces.

Explanation of Proposed Solution: The birds are leaving a mess on our car because of their travel pattern from their home (popular tree) to their source of food (cornfield). Since moving the tree, cornfield, or house is not feasible, I decided to move the birds' home to the large popular tree in the back, side yard. By moving their home to the opposite side of the house, the birds will have a straight travel path to the cornfield. Therefore, their bodily waste will be dropped over grass rather than our front porch and car. In order to move their home, I am going to create a food source to hang on the tree I want them to inhabit. I want to make a bird feeder out of an aluminum can. My plan is to hang multiple aluminum can bird feeders all in the tree to entice the birds to make the large popular in the back, side yard their permanent residence.

Materials Needed: aluminum can, plastic spoon, string or twine, bird food, razor blade

Anticipated S.T.E.M. Areas Used:

- S** – Understanding the travel pattern of the birds to their food source.
- T** – Research travel patterns of birds and food preferences.
- E** – Keeping the can balanced when inserting the spoon.
- M** – Measuring the string to hang from the tree; keeping the bird feeders at an appropriate spacing throughout the tree; measuring how far down the can to place the spoon.